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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Hiring from FAS not enough'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hiring employees from Freely Associated States or even from the U.S. mainland would still not be enough. CNMI employers have in fact taken these steps and have found out that these are not viable solutions, according to Jim Arenovski, who addressed Saipan Chamber of Commerce members in yesterday's monthly meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Arenovski, who operates Island Training Solutions, joined Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in speaking before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Com-

See HIRING on Page 4

CUC repairs PP1 engine

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has managed to re-energize—restore it to full efficiency—one of Power Plant 1's main engines in Lower Base.

Power Plant 1 has a total of eight engines. The CUC Power Generation Division was able to energize Engine 4, a unit capable of producing 7.2 megawatts of power. That engine has been inoperable since 2005 due to a seized crankpin.

According to the CUC executive director Gary Camacho, the engine, among many others, could not be immediately repaired due to the financial struggles of the corporation.

See CUC on Page 4

Guilty of stealing car but not computer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The jury found Ambrosio T. Ogumoro guilty of stealing a car owned by the Department of Public Safety but not the department's computer, according to assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley.

In response to *Saipan Tribune* questions about the verdict rendered against Ogumoro, Baisley also disclosed that the computer charges were made difficult by Ogumoro's brother, Aniceto, who claimed that he authorized the taking of the computer when he (Aniceto) was the DPS acting commissioner.

Baisley pointed out that Aniceto had never before said that to anyone and that "it's tough to get around."

Ogumoro, a former DPS deputy commissioner, was found guilty on Tuesday of two corruption charges but was acquitted of four other charges.

A Superior Court jury found the former DPS official guilty of theft by deception but not guilty of theft by unlawful taking.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who decided on the

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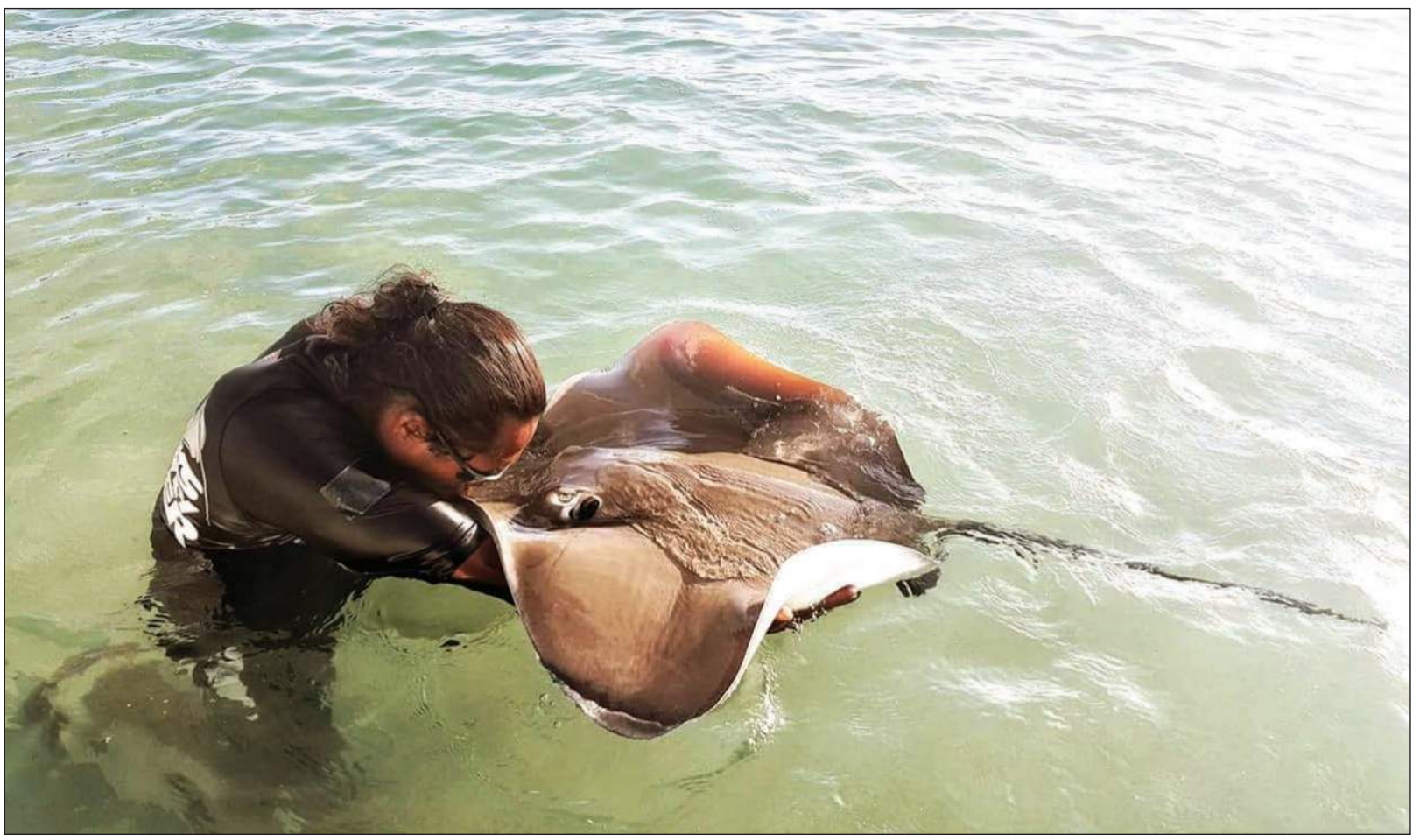

FACILITY RE-OPENS
BEA CABRERA
SEATOUCH supervisor Jesse Mettao holds up the stingray "Jolie," who is named after the actress Angelina Jolie, soon after the SEATOUCH facility re-opened at the beachside of Fiesta Resort & Spa on Tuesday.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Maxine Rabago wins first place in *Beach Road* magazine's Best Mom 2017 contest.

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WORLD
President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin signal improving ties.

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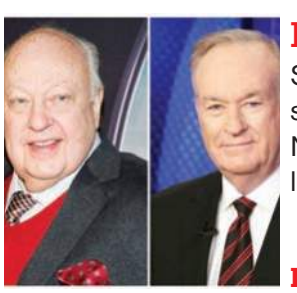

LIFE & STYLE
Stories about an abusive workplace at Fox News Channel aren't likely to go away.

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Local

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

May is Taste of the Marianas Festival

The 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at Garapan Fishing Base from 6pm to 10pm. This Saturday's entertainment includes 180 Revolution, the opening ceremony, K-Pop, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Simiyan Mariana-ta, Tiul Belau Dancers, and Refaluwasch Warriors. This week will also feature a Hotdog Eating Contest sponsored by Docomo Pacific. For more information, follow the Marianas Visitors Authority on facebook.com/MyMarianas. ***(MVA)***

Grief support group to meet today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, May 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families in the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Family reunion meetings every Thursday

The family of Leonardo Muna Camacho and Maria Padilla Campos (Naddu family tree) will be holding a family reunion on July 28 and 29, 2017. Meetings are currently being held every Thursday at the kiosku building, across the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa. Gathering time starts at 5:30pm with the official beginning time at 6pm. We encourage and welcome family members and representatives to be present in our weekly meetings. ***(PR)***

Coffee with the Chacha principal on Friday

Chacha Oceanview Middle School will be hosting "Coffee with the Principal" to discuss the upcoming 8th grade promotional ceremony with parents, guardians, and the community. The meeting will be held in the school cafeteria at 10am on Friday, May 5, 2017. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. ***(PR)***

Tourism Month graphic art design contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Marianas Tourism Education Council are holding a Tourism Month 2017 Graphic Arts Design Contest for CNMI students in grades 6-12. Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in the Marianas that the artist would encourage people to visit. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. Prizes begin at $150 cash plus $150 Taste of the Marianas tokens for first place. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2017. For contest guidelines, visit www.mymaianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Vendors invited to NMC Annual Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's 36th annual Charter Day celebration on Friday, May 12, 2017. Agencies, businesses, clubs and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food and drinks (water/ coconut juice in a nut), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information. Booth applications forms must be submitted by Friday, May 5, 2017, by 4pm. Note, however, that booth spaces are limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible. The booth fee is $150 for all commercial vendors but for student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75. For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6809 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The 17th annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions. The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Participants sought in research

Those who participated in the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers project in 2006 are being invited to take part in a research project conducted by a CNMI resident Jennifer Furey Maratita. In 2006, young writers were asked to contribute to a book, titled *We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders* (Tuten-Puckett, 2004). Maratita's research questions will focus on the understanding of the impact this project had and its relevance in your life nowadays. The impacts of shared narratives across generations in the CNMI are of special concern. For more information, email Maratita at jennifer.maratita@waldenu.edu or call/text (670) 483-3879. ***(PR)***

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Motions to disqualify AG placed under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja placed yesterday under advisement Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson's motion to disqualify Attorney General Edward Manibusan and his office from continuing as counsel or a party to Manibusan's lawsuit against her that challenges the salary increases the Legislature had approved for some elected officials.

Naraja also placed under advisement Larson's motion to dismiss Manibusan's bid for injunctions that would stop Larson from implementing the law that provided the salary hike, Public Law 19-83.

Attorney Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds argued for Larson's motion to disqualify, while former AG Matthew T. Gregory argued for Larson's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons argued Manibusan's opposition to the motions. Both Larson and Manibusan were present in court.

In an interview after the hearing, Manibusan said he is not being personal in bringing the lawsuit against Larson.

"This is an issue that has to be decided by the court," Manibusan said.

As to Timmons' presentation about the OAG's implementation of standard operating procedures, policy or guidelines with respect to conflict issue, Manibusan said one of the lawyer's duties and obligations is to do due diligence and present the client the best he can.

"Part of that is doing research and making sure you have your fundamental arguments in place," he said, adding that the OAG's policy is a public document.

He said he looked it up and found out that there are procedures in place for screening any conflicts within the office.

"Lawyers actually have to know the rules of professional responsibility. And so individually, lawyers know what the rules are," Manibusan said.

He said lawyers know what the model rules are with respect to how they act and do their work.

"That's fundamental. What we did in this case was basically put a policy in place to ensure that the fundamental principles that govern lawyers are in place," the AG said.

With respect to Larson's suggestion to instead raise the salary increases issue to the CNMI Supreme Court, Manibusan agreed that it may be one way of handling this case.

Manibusan denied when asked if he filed the lawsuit as he is planning to run for governor.

"No. Not at all," he said with a smile.

Manibusan declined to comment on Larson's counsel's question why he did not advise the Finance secretary first about his opinion about P.L. 19-83 before filing the lawsuit.

On the alternative of bringing the certified question instead, Manibusan said he will let Timmons handle the matter. The AG said they have to think about that.

When asked whether the OAG is disqualified from participating in this matter, Timmons believes there is no direct conflict. He said the attorneys involved in bringing this lawsuit do not represent Finance.

"We should not have any other conflicts imputed to us because we are a government legal office. We're treated differently under the rules so long as we have appropriate screening in place to protect confidentiality and other clients' interest," he pointed out.

Timmons said the OAG in fact has those procedures in place and that they are following them, and that it's appropriate for them to proceed with this matter.

With respect to whether Manibusan has the power to bring a lawsuit to declare a statute unconstitutional, Timmons said the trend reflects that he does have that power, so long as he is not been limited by the statute.

"The common law would afford the AG the power to bring actions in the public interest," he said.

Timmons said Manibusan certainly thinks that preventing illegal pay hike is a matter of public interest and that it is within that common law power.

In Larson's motion to disqualify, King-Hinds argued, among other things, that as chief legal counsel of the CNMI government, Manibusan is constitutionally mandated to advise and represent Larson, in her official capacity, on many matters pertaining to Finance.

King-Hinds said these actions by Manibusan against his client, Larson, raises serious concerns of conflict of the NMI Model Rules of Professional Responsibility.

In Larson's motion to dismiss, Gregory asserted, among other things, that the question of whether Manibusan may sue the CNMI has not been decided by a CNMI court, making this a question of first impression in the CNMI.

Gregory said there is no actual case or controversy between Manibusan and Larson.

Gregory said a taxpayer action would be a better way to resolve the issue of legislative salary increases or a certified question.

King-Hinds said assistant attorney general Michael Witry, counsel for Manibusan, disclosed in the pleadings that the CNMI Treasury is currently in possession of about $28 million in unappropriated funds and claimed that that is more than enough money to fund the pay increases.

King-Hinds said such information was not obtained through the Open Government Act but because the OAG is representing Finance.

King-Hinds said Manibusan does not need to sue Larson and instead should bring a certified question to the high court.

"The issue here is the conflict," she pointed out.

King-Hinds said there is no "conflict wall" implemented by the OAG.

King-Hinds said the point is the OAG did not advise Larson about their opinion as to the unconstitutionality of P.L. 19-83.

The lawyer said Manibusan has a duty to his client, Larson.

"He [Manibusan] didn't follow the law. He should be disqualified," she added.

Gregory said bringing this lawsuit is just problematic.

Gregory said there was no attempt from the OAG to advise Larson about P.L. 19-83.

Gregory said the better practice should be that the AG make an opinion about the issue and advise Larson that this law is not valid.

"There was no guidance," he said.

Gregory said the better way to resolve the issue is the certified question to avoid a negative implication about Larson being sued.

Hallahan is newest CNMI Bar member

Assistant attorney general Joseph Hallahan took his oath on Tuesday before CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro as the newest member of the CNMI Bar after passing the Bar examination last February.

"I'm ready to serve the people of the Commonwealth," Hallahan said later.

Hallahan has been serving as an assistant attorney general with the Office of the Attorney General Civil Division since June 2016. Before joining the OAG, he was a law clerk for CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona for one and a half years.

Hallahan, who hails from Indianapolis, went to Purdue University in Indiana and completed his law degree at the Washington University School of Law.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan, along with Hallahan's friends, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel Ashley Kost and attorney Charity Hodson, witnessed the swearing in administered by Castro at the Supreme Court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Marianas March Against Cancer on Friday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The whole community is being invited to support the 15th Annual Marianas March Against Cancer tomorrow at the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School's field area.

The march is an overnight voluntary walk that is done to remember those who have fought against cancer and those who are still battling the disease. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association to fund its many community activities.

According to the MMAC committee chair Carol Hosono, the event this year will include 18 teams under different categories. Each team has set up fundraisers a week prior to the MMAC and will donate all the proceeds to the CCA on the day of the event.

The teams under schools and corporations usually collaborate. Collaborative teams include TanHoldings and Kagman High School, Bridge Capital and MyPros, Triple J and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, etc.

According to Hosono, there will be 20 booths at this year's MMAC.

The 18 teams that registered for the MMAC will each have their own booth to sell refreshments, offer games, and there will also be different activities for families. The last two booths will belong to the MMAC committee and cancer survivors.

According to Hosono, there will also be awards that will be given out at the end of the event.

An award will be given out to each category that raises the most money. There will be a chosen winner for the corporation category, the nonprofit/government category, the family category, the school category, and the collaborative category.

An award will also be given to the team with the most spirit, the team with the best baton, the team with the best tent, the team that runs the most laps, the team with the most luminaries sold, and the team that embodies the most spirit and has just recently joined the MMAC.

According to Hosono, there won't be that many changes to this year's event but the entertainment. Hosono aims to keep the event as traditional as possible.

Hosono said the MMAC aims not just to raise funds but to raise awareness and to recognize all who fought against cancer.

The Marianas March Against Cancer will start from 6pm until 6am. For questions regarding the event, call the CCA office at 682-0050.

CHCC tackling workforce challenges

Administrators at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are tackling the workforce challenge fueled by the cap on CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker (CW-1) visas, and are working to prevent another shortage in the future.

"Although a large portion of our healthcare workers are on CW-1 visas now, CHCC is working aggressively to move away from this dependency," said CHCC CEO Esther Muna.

"We have prepared a new tiered payment scale that offers more competitive salaries for our current nurses and will attract more U.S.-qualified workers, but of course, this is dependent on funding. We're applying to become an eligible site for U.S. nurse loan repayment under the National Health Service Corps that graduate nurses from accredited nursing programs from Guam and the U.S. mainland can avail of while working for CHCC. Loan repayment has been an effective incentive for medical providers and we expect it will help us bring in more nurses as well," added Muna.

CHCC is also working closely with the Northern Marianas College's nursing program to ensure that graduates become licensed registered nurses. A new cohort will graduate from the NMC this month, and CHCC will pick up as many graduate nurses as possible, but there won't be enough to cover the shortage. CHCC is hiring a preceptor to work with NMC graduates to help ensure their training and education continue beyond graduation. Assistance will be provided by the CHCC to help nurses pass the National Council Licensure Examination, and stateside nursing schools are also being tapped to bolster the workforce.

According to Human Resources director Clarinda Ngirausui, "We've signed an agreement with Fernandina College in Florida and will be providing clinical training for their newly graduated nurses. "Representatives will be coming here to tour our facility this month, and we're in negotiations to get traveling nurses to fill gaps during our leanest times this summer. These traveling nurses will have the specialty we need to ensure that quality care is maintained for our patients." ***(PR)***

CUC

From Page 1

With Engine 4 offline, the island lacked at least 6.5 MW of power.

"This engine repair was initiated last year and required extensive work in all areas of the unit as a result of the long downtime and parts availability," said Camacho.

The engine received a replacement crankshaft as well as a replaced radiator system, a process that was performed internally by CUC staff without external assistance, said Camacho.

The peak power demand of Saipan is 40 MW.

Since Tuesday, the island's reserve power capacity was at 0.95 MW. By the time Engine 4 was up and running, the reserve capacity jumped to 8.2 MW yesterday, said Camacho.

According to Camacho, the low reserve was due to the CUC Power Generation Division performing general maintenance and repairs to their engines, such as Power Plant 1's Engine 3. Engine 3 is capable of producing 6 MW, but its turbo charger needs repairs.

In addition to Engine 3, Engine 5 is currently receiving repair from a contractor specializing in technical procedures. Engine 5, a 10-MW unit, has specific repairs that only a specialist may be able to carry out, such as metal stitching and careful machining. Work on Engine 5 is expected to be completed on May 9 and it would be online as soon as possible.

Power Plant 1's Engine 6 and Engine 7 are next in line for some repair work. Engine 6 also requires a specialist to look at it since the repairs call for metal stitching and turbo charger support repairs. Engine 7 needs foundation repairs and would also require the services of a specialized contractor. Repairs for both Engines 6 and 7 are expected to be completed around June 8 and August 3, respectively.

CUC has been performing repairs and maintenance on its other engines at Power Plants 1, 2, and 4, "as previously reported in presentations over the last year."

"This repair shows the dedication of all the people in the Power Generation Division. I was informed that this involved all areas of power generation and I am very proud and confident of each and every one of them down there," said Camacho.

"I think the leadership of Power Generation Division manager Richard Kano and all staff have proven that they all have the talent and skills to move forward," he added.

HIRING

From Page 1

mittee hearing in Washington, D.C. last week.

He was part of the CNMI delegation that testified in connection with House Resolution 339 or the NMI Economic Expansion Act that Sablan introduced in the U.S. House.

Island Training Solutions is the regional licensee for the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute that provides hospitality training and professional certification.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office is recommending that CNMI employers should recruit U.S. eligible workers from the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

"GAO said one of the solutions is you could go to FSM to pick up employees. Everybody in this room has done that. But we're not talking about hundreds, only dozens. This is not a viable answer," said Arenovski.

"It is an answer and you might find a few good accountants or some with good technical skills but, at the end of the day, that is not a solution."

Hepointed out that Freely Associated States have a limited labor pool since they are also a small economy like the CNMI.

"Quite frankly, if you ever get the chance to talk to leaders from Kosrae, Pohnpei or Yap, they are somewhat resentful."

"They are not happy that we come and take away their employees. They also have small economies of their own, like us here in the CNMI. This is not a viable answer and not a solution."

Arenovski said that hiring and bringing in workers from the mainland is also tough. "We've gone to the U.S. to recruit people. Housing is an issue, our medical facilities are not top, and power is always at risk."

"And these are not great points to bring people to the CNMI. The Senate needs to understand this kind of thinking is not easy."

He said the Senate committee also cited the CNMI's minimum wage, which is not yet at the federal level of $7.25 per hour. "We're getting to the federal level. Our economy is growing so our minimum wage is also going up."

"The technical jobs here are in line with the mainland and there are many employers here that are paying above minimum wage. We are in a competition with each other and for the first time in a long time, we raised our minimum wages."

Chamber's support

SCC president Velma Palacios said they also provided a letter of support on Sablan's H.R. 339 and at the same time submitted written testimony that details the progress of the business sector in following federal laws and the need of the foreign workforce.

"Our testimony discussed the progress we've managed to accomplish in hiring U.S. eligible workers, the increase in wages beyond what is mandated by law, our continued need for foreign workers due to the expansion of our economy and being able to sustain that growth."

"We still need our foreign labor force for this growing economy. That is what we wanted to impress upon our federal government, that we still need some type of foreign workers' assistance. We also addressed the struggles encountered in hiring locally or in bringing other U.S. eligible workers to our remote island," added Palacios.

She said local businesses must maintain a high standard and ethics when it comes to employment procedures in order for the CNMI not to commit its past mistakes. "The associations of past wrongs have given the NMI an unfavorable reputation."

"It has been difficult to change those opinions. Wrongdoings are being amplified and set as the accepted norm for our island, and it is up to us to run our businesses with the highest standards."

H.R. 339 would raise the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant visa numerical cap for fiscal year 2017 by 2,002 to 15,000, it would increase the training fee being collected from $150 to $200, and it would permanently prohibit CW1 permits from being issued to construction workers, except for those that had already been issued before Oct. 1, 2015.

GUILTY

From Page 1

misdemeanor charges, found Ogumoro guilty of misconduct in public office, not guilty of two counts of removal of government property, and not guilty of one count of misconduct in public office.

Sentencing will be on Sept. 12, 2017 at 1:30pm.

When asked to explain the verdict, Baisley said there were felony charges—theft of a 1995 Toyota Tercel car and theft of a computer.

Baisley said there were four related misdemeanor charges: two counts of misconduct in public office (one for stealing the car and the other for stealing the computer), and two counts of removal of government property (again, one for stealing the car and the other for stealing the computer).

The prosecutor said that Govendo basically tracked the jury's decision.

Baisley said Govendo agreed that the government proved that Ogumoro stole the car, and therefore found him guilty of misconduct in public office based on stealing the vehicle.

Although Govendo didn't say this, Baisley said that double jeopardy would have prevented a guilty verdict on the removal charge with respect to the car.

The prosecutor said Govendo also agreed that the prosecution did not prove the computer charge, so that misconduct charge also necessarily failed.

"Misconduct is based on finding that defendant committed an illegal act in office, so if the illegal act fails, so too must the misconduct," he said.

Baisley said Govendo made an additional ruling that the government's removal charges were barred by the statute of limitations.

Although he believes that the ruling was in error, Baisley is happy with the result of the trial.

"The car theft was always our focus and so I am happy with that verdict," he added.

Ogumoro and his counsel, Mark B. Hanson, refused to comment about the verdict.

According to the charges, Ogumoro brought the 1995 Toyota Tercel to a shop to be repaired using DPS funds totaling $2,500 in 2002 and then sold the vehicle as "scrap" for only $50 to Herman M. Manglona.

Manglona is the brother of Ogumoro's common-law wife, Katherine Manglona.

The prosecution also alleged that Ogumoro instructed a DPS staff to bring a DPS desktop computer to a shop for repairs using DPS funding in the amount of $276. The computer, along with a laptop, printer, and other DPS property, were later used in the office of the True North Bar & Grill, which is owned by Ogumoro.

ICE launches office to aid victims of criminal aliens

WASHINGTON—Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly announced yesterday the official launch of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office, or VOICE. The VOICE office will assist victims of crimes committed by criminal aliens.

ICE built the VOICE office in response to the Executive Order titled Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States, which directed DHS to create an office to support victims of crimes committed by criminal aliens.

"All crime is terrible, but these victims are unique—and too often ignored," said Kelly. "They are casualties of crimes that should never have taken place because the people who victimized them oftentimes should not have been in the country in the first place.

The key objectives of the VOICE office are: Use a victim-centered approach to acknowledge and support victims and their families; promote awareness of available services to crime victims; build collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders assisting victims.

ICE has established a toll-free hotline staffed with operators who will triage calls to ensure victims receive the support they need. The number is 1-855-48-VOICE or 1-855-488-6423.

The types of assistance people impacted by crimes committed by illegal aliens can expect include:

■ Local contacts to help with unique victim requests

■ ICE community relations officers will serve as a local representative explaining to victims what information is available and to help victims understand the immigration enforcement and removal process.

■ Access to social service professionals able to refer victims to resources and service providers

■ ICE has a cadre of 27 victim assistance specialists located across the country available to direct victims to a wide range of resources. The victim assistance specialists possess a high degree of specialized victim assistance expertise and training.

■ Assistance signing-up to receive automated custody status information

■ The DHS-Victim Information and Notification Exchange is an automated service being launched today that will help victims track the immigration custody status of illegal alien perpetrators of crime. More information about DHS-VINE and how to sign-up to receive automated alerts can be found at: https://vinelink.dhs.gov.

■ Additional criminal or immigration history may be available about an illegal alien to victims or their families

■ ICE will work with requesting individuals to determine what releasable information is available to victims about an alien involved in a crime.

ICE is employing a measured approach to building the VOICE office—meaning that it intends to expand the services VOICE offers in the future. This approach allows the office to provide immediate services to victims, but will also allow the agency to collect metrics and information to determine additional resource needs and how the office can best serve victims and their families moving forward. ***(ICE)***

Funding to support Saipan vets

Three East Carolina University faculty members have been awarded almost $98,000 in grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work with Saipan veterans.

Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, associate professor of History in the Maritime Studies Program and project director; Dr. Anna Froula, associate professor of Film Studies in the Department of English; and Dr. Anne Ticknor, associate professor of Literacy Studies in the College of Education, comprise the interdisciplinary team.

McKinnon, Froula, and Ticknor will engage Saipanese veterans of contemporary wars, surviving civilian participants of World War II, and families of military service personnel to learn more about war's universal impact on humanity.

McKinnon has collaborated with the Saipan community for nearly 10 years on heritage sites on land and underwater. Froula has published widely on the representations of war and service personnel in popular culture as well as advises the Student Veteran Group at ECU. Ticknor, a literacy educator for 20 years, researches identities.

Two ECU proposals were part of 15 projects to receive funding through the NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program. Part of NEH's Standing Together initiative, the grants provide opportunities for veterans, through the study and discussion of important humanities sources, to think more deeply about issues raised by war and military service.

The funding will allow ECU faculty to travel to Saipan for two weeks in July to prepare community members with interest in humanities, history, and veteran affairs to become discussion leaders. They will lead discussion groups with local, primarily Chamorro and Carolinian, veterans to develop an understanding of war as a shared human experience and the associated cultural heritage of war on Saipan. Discussion will center on the Spanish-Chamorro Wars of the 17th century and the World War II Battle of Saipan as bookends to the history of resistance and aggressions on the islands. These wars were chosen because they represent the complexities of all of the participants of war, combatant and non-combatant, in a colonial and post-colonial context.

Participants will gain an understanding of the meaning of war from different perspectives through the exploration of terrestrial and underwater cultural heritage, film, history, memoirs, children's historical fiction, poetry, paintings, and graphic novels.

"Underwater cultural heritage, just one of many humanities sources used in this project, is not typically thought of as an entry or gateway into discussing large societal issues like identity, conflict, or even the potential for healing," McKinnon said. "This is why I'm so excited to explore this possibility with my colleagues and the community."

McKinnon, Froula, and Ticknor anticipate that the personal interactions with the physical remains of heritage sites as well as humanities texts and films will provide a new or renewed sense of cultural value for both the veterans' experiences and the local conflict heritage.

NEH panel reviewers commented that the project was distinct from other proposals with significant potential for intergenerational impact. Since launching the initiative in 2014, the NEH has awarded more than $7.7 million for humanities projects that serve veterans or chronicle their experiences.

For more information about maritime studies at ECU, visit http://www.ecu.edu/history/.

For more information about the English department, visit http://www.ecu.edu/english/.

For more information about literacy studies, visit http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/LEHE/read/literacy_home.cfm. ***(PR)***

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MAS graduates 1st batch of trainees

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The first batch of trainees under the scholarship collaboration between the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program and Marianas Aviation Services received their certificates of completion Monday night at a graduation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

A total of 26 students completed the course.

According to Marianas Aviation Services chief instructor Rob Combs, the crash course lasted only 44 hours or just 10 days, which means the students had to cram. He believes his students did just that. Comb said that in just 44 hours, his student were able to learn all the basic information in ticketing service and ground handling of an airline.

Combs was pleased that all 26 students who signed up were able to graduate.

Shane Alvarez, the class speaker of the first batch of graduates, said his two weeks with the course was unforgettable because of the connection he established with his fellow graduates.

"This was a very fun two weeks that we had with each other, together with Ms. Myla and Mr. Rob. In such a short amount of time, we turned this into a family," he said.

Alvarez acknowledged that the course was frustrating and difficult, but they managed to complete it through the teaching style of their instructors.

"It wasn't easy, we had to fly by a whole bunch of stuff and if you didn't pay attention you would get a lost or forge. Thankfully, Mr. Rob and Myla knew how to make things fun and interesting to keep us entertained," said Alvarez.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who also shared a few words with the class, urged them to continue to pursue a career in the airline field.

According to Apatang, the skills the students acquired from the two-week course are stepping stones for them to continue to improve their lives.

Apatang wishes to continue the partnership that the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and SHEFA has built with Marianas Aviation Services.

"*Si yuus maase* for this success story and for offering the training," said Apatang.

The 26 graduates of the Marianas Aviation Services scholarship training program were congratulated by instructor Rob Combs at their graduation ceremony on Monday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose hall, Susupe. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Man allegedly punched, kicked wife

A jobless man allegedly punched his common-law wife more than 10 times in the head and face, kicked her twice, and pulled her hair at their home in Chalan Kanoa last week.

Paul Helgenberger Taitano, 35, is also accused of slapping the victim, who was then holding their 1-year-old infant. He also allegedly threw her to the ground and threw a flowerpot at her, police said.

Taitano was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. His bail was set Friday at $10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on May 8 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as Taitano's lawyer. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Preliminary investigation showed that a police officer responded to a disturbance call at Kappon Apartment in Chalan Kanoa on Thursday at 6:23am.

Igitol said the officer met with the victim, who had a swollen cheek and dirt over her arms and body.

The victim told police that when Taitano woke up that morning, he badgered her about her whereabouts the night before. She took their 1-year-old child and walked out of the house. Taitano followed her, slapped her, and told for her to return inside. When she refused, Taitano threw her down to the ground. She got up and walked to a neighbor's house to call the police. That's when Taitano allegedly threw a flowerpot at her. The report did not indicate whether she was hit.

Police also learned that on Thursday, Taitano punched and kicked the victim and pulled her hair.

Taitano was arrested on Thursday morning. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-025

ISA DRIVE SEWER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Construction firms for the Construction of the Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Project Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new sewer mains, manholes, and drop manholes. The asphalt pavement restoration shall be completed by others. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications.

CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 15, 2017 pending the Department of Public Works ongoing road construction. It may be extended if the road construction experiences any delays in the vicinity of the sewer line extension. The contractor shall be allotted a minimum of 90 days to complete the work.

This project is funded by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Capital Improvement Project thru the CNMI. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-17-025, Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Part B"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 16, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 8, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-031

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than May 26, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed within forty (40) calendar days from issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2016 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-031, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016" to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 12, 2017**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2017**, to Corina Magofna, CUC Budget Officer, via email address corina.magofna@cucgov.org and Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maxine Rabago reads her essay to her mom, Melanie Rabago.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tom Basa, Lannie Salvani, and Minda Castro pose with first place winners Maxine and mom Melanie Rabago.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, mom Grace and Ankiet (second prize), Maxine and mom Melanie (first prize), Lesly and mom Florentina third prize).

Rabago leads winners in magazine's mom contest

Maxine Rabago, a 13-year-old eight grader at Saipan Community School, submitted the essay entry that won her first place in *Beach Road* magazine's Best Mom 2017 contest.

As part of her prize, she and her mom, Melanie Rabago, are featured in the magazine's May edition, just in time for the celebration of Mother's Day.

The contest was launched in mid-April. The deadline was set on April 14 so the winners can be featured in the magazine's May 2017 issue.

Students aged 12 to 15 years old were challenged to write short essays of 50 words or less, telling us why they think their mom is the best. Poems were also accepted. By doing this, students had the chance to win great prizes for their mothers and make this coming Mother's Day, May 14, truly special. Although some of the schools were not able to join because they were on Spring break, the magazine still drew 178 entries from the following schools: Dandan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, Hopwood Junior High School, Saipan Community School, Northern Marianas International School, Marianas High School, and Saipan International School.

A panel of judges trimmed the 178 entries down to 13 finalists, after which the three winning essays were selected by major sponsors.

Second place went to Anhkiet Milad Huynh Jr., 13, 8th Grade, Tanapag Middle School, and his mom, Grace Milad Brooks.

Third place went to Lesly Ibarra, 15, 9th Grade, Marianas High School, and her mom, Florentina Ibarra.

The presentation of prizes to the winners was held at the Transpac Business center conference room in Gualo Rai last April 20.

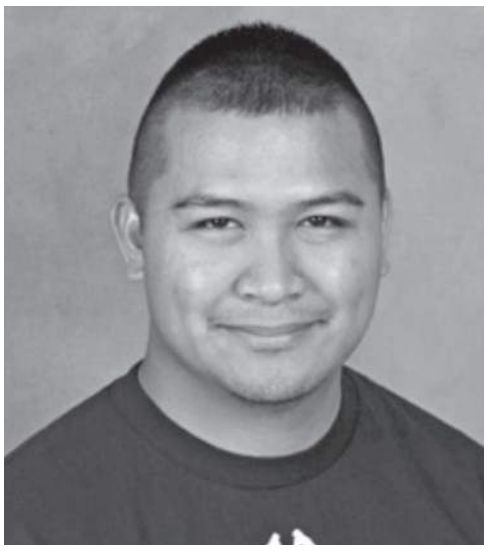
Prizes include gift baskets from Marpac, bouquets from Island Touch by Philip, dinner and lunch buffet certificates from Fiesta Resort & Spa and Kanoa Resort Saipan, meal vouchers from KFC-Taco Bell, waterpark passes from Pacific Islands Club Saipan, gift bags from Coca-Cola and Foremost, gifts from T-Galleria (DFS and L&M Enterprises), gift certificates from Makeover Beauty Salon and National Office Supply, coupons from Scoops, barbecue grill from Alicia Barbo, and three cases of Mogu-Mogu drinks from Islander Mini-Mart.

"We truly appreciate the students' sincere efforts to 'tell' the community how they feel about mom. Joining the contest alone proves how much they love their mothers, and you are all winners in our hearts," said Minda Castro, event coordinator. ***(PR)***

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

TMS students show love for their teachers

In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, Tanapag Middle School is having this article published in honor of the school's teachers.



Teacher: JESSE ARRIOLA
Grade 6-8
Leadership Corps

Mr. Arriola is a very humorous guy who is strict when it comes to student learning. His goal is to teach his students to become professionals so that we are ready for life after school. Mr. Arriola is a great person to tell your stories to, and he knows how to have a good time. He is understanding, caring, and committed to his students. Sir, the first time I ever stepped foot in your class, I was nervous. I did not know what to expect. Days went by and it quickly became one of my favorite courses. Through your instruction, you encouraged and guided me to thrive to become professional in the things I do. You inspired me to become a true leader. Thank you for everything, sir. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Madison Duenas. 8th grade. Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: YOANA ACHEN
Grades: 7 and 8
Carolinian Cultural Heritage Studies

Dear Ms. Achen: I guarantee you still remember me when I was like 3 feet tall, not knowing a single thing about what you taught. Yes, it was my first day ever going to school. Back then, Tanapag was an elementary school. So I got to know my first teacher, but then later on we had to line up and walk outside. I wondered, "Was it lunch time?" or "Was it recess?" I later realized we were walking to another classroom. We walked inside and saw you, Mrs. Achen. We were there to learn the Carolinian language and heritage. We loved the dances you taught us, and the sad stories that made most Kindergarteners cry. I guess we were really dramatic at the time. The next couple of years, you continued to remain my teacher and I have learned so much from you. So now I am here in the 7th grade a couple of years later, and I am still happy that you are my teacher. I just wanted to say a big thank you from me and all the Tanapag school family. We love you a lot! Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Ryder Alvarez, 7th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: RAILANI TABUNDA
Grade 7 and 8
Math

Dear Ms. Railani: You are the smartest teacher I have ever met and I know letters are not the best way to thank you for all you do. You are the teacher that has inspired me to like math. If you ever plan to leave Tanapag Middle School, please always remember that you are loved and cared for by every student in this school. Sometimes you may be discouraged, especially when we misbehave or don't follow directions but please know that we care about you because you are special. What makes you special is the way you care for and respect all students. You are able to solve math problems quickly, like magic. When you make mistakes you are cool, because you always find ways to make it right. We thank you, Ms. Rai, for choosing to teach us here at Tanapag Middle School! Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Joel Gildilak, 7th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: SHAWNA BABAUTA
Grade 7 and 8
Science

Have you ever wanted that teacher that understands you as a student ? Well, I'm glad to say I met just the right teacher! She has that smile that welcomes people without being spoken to, a heart big enough to love each and every one of her students, and the knowledge to open minds. Tanapag Middle School is blessed to have such teachers like Ms. Shawna Babauta.

Over the summer of 2016 , before I became an 8th grader I hoped that Ms. Shawna was going to be my homeroom teacher. I made that wish because of all the wonderful stories that were told to me by her previous students. Now that she is my teacher, I realize that she is even better than she was described. Thank you, Ms. Shawna, for all that you did and continue to do not just for your students, but for the entire Tanapag Middle School community! Happy Teacher's Appreciation Week! "The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see."

Written By: Jaymarie Marlik, 8th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: TYRON ERMANG
Grade 7 and 8
Language Arts

Mr. Ty is a nice teacher who isn't as strict as other teachers but he allows students to be themselves in class without being judged. He is also outgoing and fun to be with. Mr. Ty joined the TMS team of teachers back when I was in the 6th grade. I remember telling him that I'd give up. Well, he sure did prove me wrong. Mr. Ty teaches by example by modeling to us to never give up. Mr. Ty helps us learn the way we want, just as long as we get something out of it. The past three years has been great. Never give up. Be the person that you are today. Thank you for being very generous and understanding us all by giving us the right to be ourselves. You are truly the best there is! Thank you very much! Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Madison Duenas, 8th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: JAKE REYES
Grade 6 and 8th Grade
Special Education teacher aide

Mr. Jake is an excellent teacher aide who works very well with middle school students. He is skilled and adjusts to the everyday challenges in a middle school atmosphere. One reason that Mr. Jake is widely famous on campus is that he is a friendly, kind, and a captivating teacher. Surely there is no doubt that Mr. Jake is right for this job.

Mr. Jake has a character that is encouraging to those around him. His smile and willingness to help others makes communication with teens on campus fun and nurturing. Another thing is that teens don't feel tense around Mr. Jake, because he does not give us any reason to feel pressured or nervous. Another quality that Mr. Jake possesses is his ability to adjust to the environment of middle school. Despite all the emotions, energy, and behavior that middle schoolers display each day Mr. Jake is able to adapt and keep calm. This adaptability shows us that Mr. Jake has what is needed to do his job effectively. We are so thankful for Mr. Jake and all that he brings to the students of Tanapag Middle School. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Kianna Camacho, 6th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

Teacher: VIVIAN LIMES
Grade: 7th and 8th Grade
Science

Mrs. Vivian is a student teacher at Tanapag Middle School who began her journey with us in February. Mrs. Vivian is extraordinary. She uses a variety of strategies in and outside of the classroom to help us learn. She is one of the most intelligent and smart teachers that I know. Mrs. Vivian prioritizes making her students feel comfortable and accepted in her class. She has definitely helped me succeed in my 8th grade life. One thing she would always tell me is, "Don't give up, Peter, no matter what. Always try your best." Mrs. Vivian is a hardworking teacher. She is dedicated, responsible, and caring. We know that she will do a wonderful job as a teacher after she graduates with her education degree. Mrs. Vivian, thank you! You are my inspiration! Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from your TMS family!

Written By: Peter Pangelinan, 8th Grade, Tanapag Middle School

JSTA leads semi-annual Garapan cleanup

The Japan Saipan Travel Association conducted its semi-annual cleanup of Garapan on April 29, 2017, drawing 73 participants from 23 companies and collecting over 250 lbs of trash.

JSTA was again joined by the Marianas Visitors Authority, a number of tourism industry companies, and community members in picking up trash from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office along roads and the beach in anticipation of more tourist arrivals during Japan's Golden Week holiday.

The Japan Saipan Travel Association is joined by 22 other businesses and groups in its pre-Golden Week holiday cleanup in Garapan, Saipan, on April 29, 2017. The group collected 250 lbs of trash. MVA

"Through the years, JSTA has demonstrated its diligent commitment by organizing and leading this annual cleanup, and the community owes them much gratitude for their faithful service," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "However, it's unfortunate that this year we ended up collecting more than double the amount of trash we collected last year. We strongly urge that anti-littering and anti-dumping laws be enforced in our main tourist distric and around the islands. We all have a responsibility to keep our islands clean…businesses, residents, and visitors, alike."

Other participating companies and organizations were the Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, Japan Consular Office, Korean Tour Association of Saipan, CNMI public schools, Himawari Kenbukan (Kendo class), Martha's Store, Aqua Blue Saipan, HANA Tour, MODE Tour, H.I.S. Saipan, Saipan Sanko, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Pacific Micronesia Tours, Big Eye, Super Fish Diving, Pacific Eagle, Mariana Sports Club, Aqua Connections, Kan Pacific, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, and Pacific Development Inc.

The Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays within seven days and is one of Japan's busiest holiday seasons. ***(MVA)***

NMC invites participants for its Charter Day talent competition

As part of its Charter Day celebration, Northern Marianas College is inviting participants for its first PROA FACTOR Talent Competition.

Singers, dancers, dance groups, slam poets, musicians, bands, DJs, and other talented performers are encouraged to audition.

In years past, NMC has hosted Marianas Idol and Battle of the Bands at the NMC Charter Day celebration, but this year all categories of performers are invited to showcase their talents.

Interested individuals or groups must be between 12 and 25 to compete. Top contestants will perform on May 12, 2017.

Entry forms for the contest are due by Monday, May 8, 2017, at 4pm. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 4pm at NMC. Those who are interested can complete an online entry form at marianas.edu or pick up a form at the PROA Center located at NMC Bldg I.

The Charter Day festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm at the NMC south field in As Terlaje on Friday, May 12, 2017. The event will feature various entertainment and competitions. Numerous vendors will also be selling food and drinks, as well as hosting game booths.

As part of its commitment to promote healthier health habits, sugary drinks will not be sold at Charter Day. This includes sodas or other drinks with high sugar content. Water and coconut (in nut) will be sold.

Contact kaelani.demapan@marianas.edu or 237-6777 for more details about the PROA Factor Talent competition. For more information about Charter Day, visit marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLR. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-GOV-130
Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) office, are soliciting sealed bids for the **Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR**, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining a package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid meeting will be held at Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor at the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill on April 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 25, 2017, to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capital Hill, Saipan or via email to esb.cip@gmail.com (Elizabeth Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager) or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared will all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB17-GOV-130**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 10, 2017and must be received no later 10:00 a.m. than May 17, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, May 17, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, on May 10, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

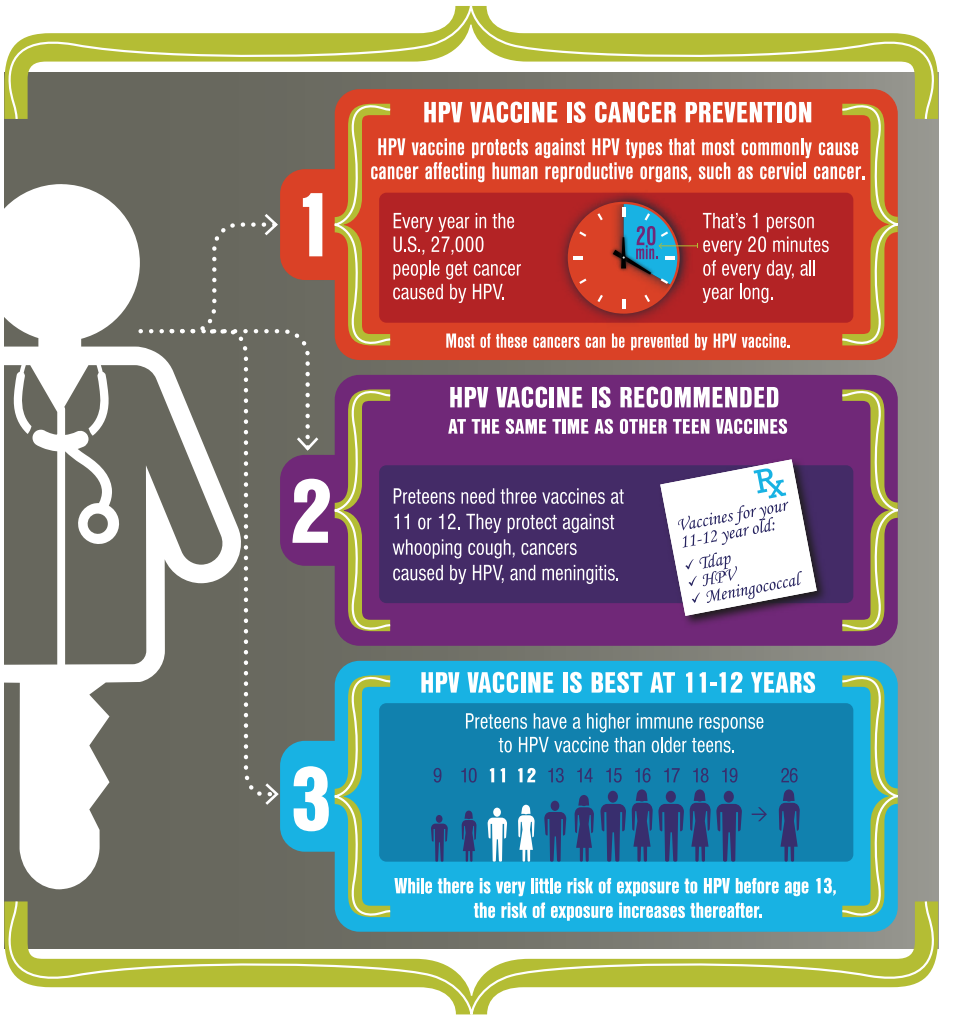
Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

HPV CANCER PREVENTION


1
HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION
HPV vaccine protects against HPV types that most commonly cause cancer affecting human reproductive organs, such as cervicl cancer.
Every year in the U.S., 27,000 people get cancer caused by HPV.
20 min.
That's 1 person every 20 minutes of every day, all year long.
Most of these cancers can be prevented by HPV vaccine.
2
HPV VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED
AT THE SAME TIME AS OTHER TEEN VACCINES
Preteens need three vaccines at 11 or 12. They protect against whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and meningitis.
Rx
Vaccines for your 11-12 year old:
✓ Tdap
✓ HPV
✓ Meningococcal
3
HPV VACCINE IS BEST AT 11-12 YEARS
Preteens have a higher immune response to HPV vaccine than older teens.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 26
While there is very little risk of exposure to HPV before age 13, the risk of exposure increases thereafter.

Contact the Division of Public Health's **Immunization Program** to see if your teen is up to date with his or her immunization at 670-236-8780

VACCINATE YOUR 11-12 YEAR OLDS.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens

"This advertisement has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Sciences."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Human rights matter, Mr. President

Any U.S. foreign policy decision that fails to consider human rights is not only immoral but likely ineffective. We are a nation founded on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To ignore the suffering of others is to violate our nation's bedrock principles. It is a betrayal of the founding fathers, and, worse, accepting human rights violations as a cost of doing business tells the world that the United States pursues no purpose higher than its own temporary self-interest, a self-defeating choice given how it betrays our closest allies and comforts autocrats with delusions of grandeur.

That's why President Donald Trump's recent outreach to President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines should appall and truly, deeply offend Americans who regard their country as the "last best hope of earth." In the name of a "war on drugs," Duterte's regime has killed over 7,000 people using police hit squads to murder suspected drug dealers and users. And what does the Philippines' leader say about this? "Hitler massacred 3 million Jews. Now, there are 3 million drug addicts. I'd be happy to slaughter them. If Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have (me)."

Yet over the weekend, President Trump invited this despot to visit Washington after having what he called a "very friendly conversation" with President Duterte that touched on regional security in Southeast Asia. It apparently included no criticism of the death squads that have killed an average of 30 people each day since the Philippines president took office in mid-2016. Last fall, Duterte called Trump after his election and later claimed the president-elect had wished him success in his anti-drug campaign. There has been no refutation from the White House.

White House officials say the outreach is necessary as part of a broader pan-Asian effort to rally support against North Korea and that country's developing nuclear capabilities. But while that might be an unfortunate necessity in regards to outreach to China—no slouch in the human rights violations department itself—the Philippines is hardly a power broker on the world stage. Duterte's antagonism toward the U.S. has been evident (he has been cozying up to China and threatening to force the removal of U.S. troops from his country), but again, the Philippines has limited real world options. President Barack Obama took a tougher, more sensible line with Duterte, warning him to conduct a war on drugs "the right way" last September.

President Trump's ambition to find allies in the Pacific might be more convincing if he hadn't torn up the Trans Pacific Partnership, the 12-nation trade agreement that might not have only given the U.S. greater economic clout in East Asia but could have helped bring greater pressure to bear on China. Collectively, the countries involved represented 40 percent of the world's trade, but Trump found the deal "ridiculous" and not sufficiently tilted toward American interests for his liking. If anything, the U.S. withdrawal was a big win for China, which remains the dominant economic power in the region. And did anyone mention that Trump has a personal stake in the Philippines, a 57-story office

See HUMAN on Next Page

Vintage Republican doesn't recognize her party these days

By JENIFER SARVER
The Dallas Morning News

Jenifer Sarver is a Republican communications strategist in Austin. She wrote this for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email her at jenifer@sarverstrategies.com.*

I feel like it is Christmas, my parents have gone through a nasty divorce and I don't know whose home to go to. On the one hand, my old home is still there, but someone new has moved in, gutted the place and made it utterly unrecognizable. On the other hand, the new house is completely unfamiliar and feels cold, foreign and unwelcoming.

That's how I've been explaining how I feel about politics since Donald Trump was elected president. I feel like a political orphan. I grew up a child of the Reagan '80s and I've proudly worked as part of the Republican Party my entire adult life. I believe in the core conservative tenets of limited yet effective government, personal responsibility, a free market economy and a strong national defense—vintage Republican values.

But that's not the Republican Party I see leading in Washington. Those aren't the core values driving the conversation. Instead, what I see all too often is an angry mob preying on people's worst fears, trampling over the weak and shutting out any dissenting views.

Rather than hold our new president to account and demand that he lead with integrity, comport himself with diplomacy and engage the public with honesty, too many in my party quickly shun any disagreement or suggestion of impropriety, all the while the smoke signals billowing out of the White House indicate trouble nearly every day.

The emperor may have no clothes, but we are determined to avert our eyes and blithely march forward.

Still, I'm not a Democrat. I don't look to the left and feel welcome either. I see just as much bitterness, divisiveness and infighting at times, and I do not see an open-minded acceptance of the viewpoints of an independent, pro-life woman.

I watched my Facebook feed during the inauguration and saw friends celebrating and toasting the new administration at the famed Black Tie & Boots inaugural ball for Texans in Washington. But I didn't feel like celebrating. I think how you win matters, and the tone the election set was not one I wanted to applaud.

The next day I watched again as friends across the country peacefully, yet energetically, protested the new administration. They had sign-painting parties, loaded their kids in strollers and Baby Bjorns and marched on Denver, Austin, New York, Los Angeles and Washington. But again, I didn't feel like I belonged at the Women's March either.

One hundred days in and not much has changed. I'm still in political limbo. While selected Trump moves, like the Neil Gorsuch nomination to the Supreme Court and the response to a chemical attack in Syria, have provided some cover for reluctant Trump supporters, his whiplash-inducing about-faces on major policy positions have only served to deepen my concern and validate my choice to break with my party in November.

The good news is that while I may feel like an orphan, I'm not alone. I regularly have conversations with people on both sides of the aisle who don't feel like either party is truly representative of their views and their values. Many Americans are sick of partisan politics, with too many elected officials only doing what's necessary to get elected and keep their primary voters happy.

I think most Americans want a government that works. Conservatives and liberals have differing views on how much government is necessary, to be sure, but fundamentally we share a desire to live in healthy, educated and safe communities.

As a conservative, I want a government that provides the basic infrastructure for our democracy to function, but then steps out of the way. But I also recognize that there are vital functions, such as public safety, transportation and public education that need to be met. And the social safety net that only government can provide with consistency is a necessary function in our broken world.

Yet the policy signals emanating from the White House are inconsistent and unpredictable and only intermittently align with conservative principles. It's a symptom of what happens when personal gain and political expediency, rather than a core set of values, are one's modus operandi.

The current tone of the political rhetoric emanating from our leaders is not one that calls us to a higher purpose. It all too often devolves into a dog whistle that divides us, fractures us and pits us against each other.

I would love to be motivated and inspired by public servants who put people first and politics second, by leaders who put country before party. Where are those leaders? I see flashes and glimmers and glimpses of hope when, once in a while, someone stands up for core conservative values and against the president and the party. But they are uncommon.

So for now, 100 days into this new administration, I will comfortably wear my new label with pride: Vintage Republican. And I will hope, pray and work for a kinder, more pragmatic and constructive political system where bipartisanship and collaboration aren't dirty words. And you know the good thing about vintage? It may be out of style just now, but the classics always come back.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Avoiding bill shock from your mobile phone' checklist

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Communications Commission's guidance on how owners of mobile phones can best protect themselves from unexpected high bills levied by their mobile phone providers.

Overage charges and fees on your mobile phone bill can be tough to swallow, especially when they are unexpected and result from usage patterns you thought were safe within your plan. The FCC wants to help you avoid "bill shock."

Following this simple checklist should help:

Step #1: Understand your usage pattern for voice calls

When setting up your plan options, ask yourself:

■ Will I use the phone frequently or for emergencies only?

■ Do I call at all times or mainly days, evenings, or weekends?

■ Are most of my calls local? Regional? Nationwide? Worldwide?

■ Are most of my calls to a small number of friends and family, or do I call many different people?

Step #2: Understand your plan options for data and text

■ If you have used data and text plans before—enough to know your usage pattern—talk to your service provider about the plan that will be best for you.

■ If you are new to data and text, choose a plan that seems right and monitor your usage during the first few weeks to see if you are approaching your limit.

■ If your data or text usage is high, consider an unlimited data plan option.

Step #3: Ask your carrier how you can avoid bill shock

Options may include phone or text alerts, allowing you to monitor your account online or by giving you additional information.

Step #4: Consider a pre-paid plan

A pre-paid plan may help keep your phone bill in check. When you "pre-pay" for all your minutes, you will be unable to go over your set limit.

Step #5: Understand where you may incur roaming fees

■ Make sure your phone's screen will alert you when you are roaming.

■ Ask your service provider where network roaming is likely to occur with its service.

Step #6: Plan before traveling internationally

If you expect to take your phone outside the United States and use it for voice or data, including email, make sure to find out beforehand what charges your provider may apply.

See the FCC's consumer guide on International Roaming: Using Your Mobile Phone in Other Countries, available at www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/international-roaming-using-your-mobile-phone-other-countries.

Filing a complaint

If you feel your phone bill is inaccurate and you are unable to resolve it with your service provider, you have multiple options for filing a complaint with the FCC:

■ File a complaint online at https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov

■ By phone: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322); TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) ; ASL: 1-844-432-2275

■ By mail (please include your name, address, contact information, and as much detail about your complaint as possible):

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Consumer Help Center

For more information on consumer issues, visit the FCC's Consumer Help Center at https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares Federal Trade Commission and/or FCC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

HUMAN

From Page 10

building in Manila that bears his name and from which he reportedly receives millions under a licensing agreement?

Trump's cozying up to Duterte also follows a disturbing pattern of his embracing strong men around the world. First, of course, was Russian President Vladimir Putin, but add to the list Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. Last month, Trump was the first Western leader to congratulate Erdogan on his successful referendum expanding his powers, a vote that international observers found suspect. Trump has already hosted the Egyptian president, who took office by military coup and who has taken a particularly brutal approach to the Muslim Brotherhood. All three leaders are rated among the world's worst offenders of human rights by Human Rights Watch.

Maybe there are times when an argument can be made that the greater good is served by tolerating abuses to avoid a far greater catastrophe for humanity, but the Philippines just doesn't meet that standard. It seems more likely that the 45th president just doesn't seem to be bothered by death squads or political prisoners or crackdowns on a free press. Remember when Khizr Kahn, the father of a Muslim soldier killed in action in Iraq, offered Trump a copy of the U.S. Constitution so he might understand the concept of equal protection under the law? Better add the Declaration of Independence to the president's must-read list so he might learn about the inalienable rights of men as well.

(c) 2017 *The Baltimore Sun*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tinian thanks you for the 2017 San Jose fiesta

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, the Tinian leadership, and the people of Tinian would like extend their sincerest appreciation *yan un sen dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase* for all who joined us during this past weekend's 2017 San Jose fiesta celebration.

Despite the closure of the Tinian Dynasty and the financial challenges Tinian is facing, we saw a great showing from our community members and visitors from Saipan and Guam. From the soft opening on April 26 to the opening ceremony on April 28 and the Sunday celebration at the San Jose Church, the support was tremendous.

The variety of vendors selling food and other items as well as the variety of entertainment catering to this year's theme of "Back to Our Roots" truly made this year's celebration a memorable one for our Tinian residents and our off-island guests. Having Saipan councilor LJ "Finasisu Mestisu" Castro MC alongside Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett throughout the fiesta definitely highlighted the many vendors and talents that joined us.

Additionally, we extend our sincerest appreciation to all our entertainers from True North, Uprooted, Chris Kaipat and Gang, Joe Mccarrell and Marianas Homegrown, Simiyan Marianas, our Tinian Youth Center Famagu'on Tinian, and the rest of our entertainers.

We also wanted to extend our appreciation to Mayor Apatang of Saipan for allowing his employee, Luis Kapileo, to assist our Tinian Youth Center Famagu'on Tinian in training them on the blowing of the *kulu* that made the opening ceremony truly culturally significant. *Si yu'us ma'ase* Mayor Apatang and Mr. Kapileo.

We would also like to recognize our fishing derby and 100k Mountain Bike Tour de Tinian organizers, volunteers, and especially the participants. We thank you for making our 2017 San Jose fiesta celebration even more memorable.

To our major sponsors: MVA (Matua sponsor), Docomo Pacific (Acha'ot sponsor), and our Manachang sponsors (IT&E, Tan Holdings, and MarPac) the 2017 San Jose Fiesta was a success in large part because of your partnership and generosity. We also wanted to extend our appreciation to SN-5 and Pacifica Insurance for assisting in shipping the sound equipment to Tinian and for supporting the Sunday festivities at the San Jose Church.

Un sen dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase, salamat po, and thank you.

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

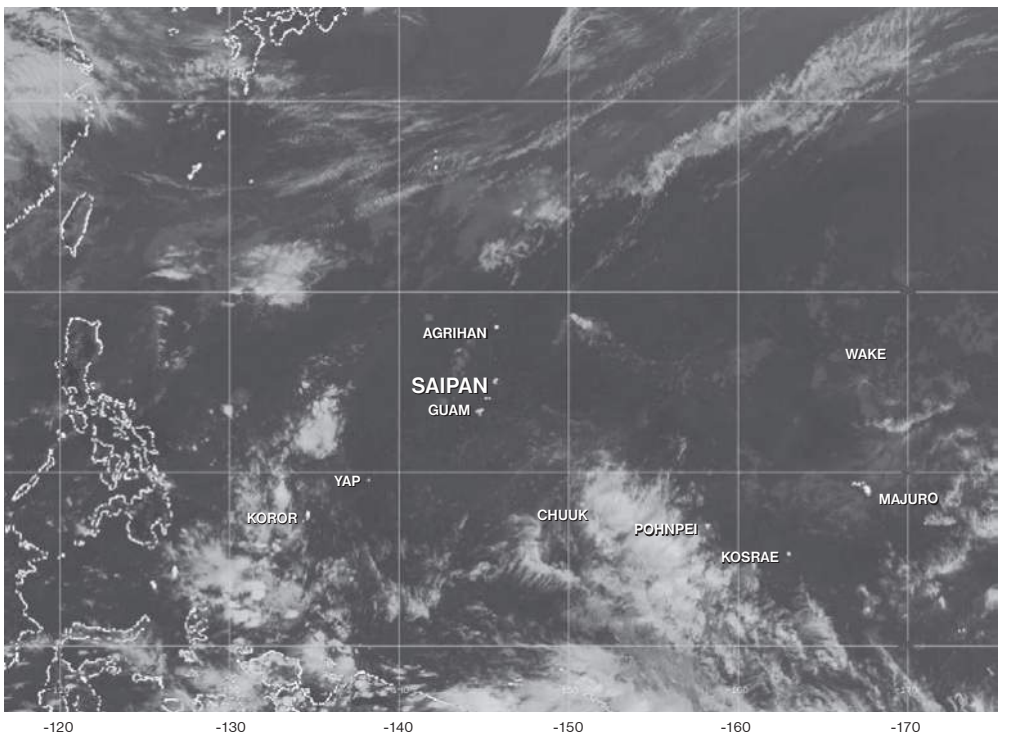
Tinian Youth Center Famagu'on Tinian perform during the 2107 San Jose Fiesta opening ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine.	Isolated thunderstorms in the morning. Lots of sunshine late.	Sun and a few passing clouds.	Mostly sunny skies.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:15 PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Once again, a dry season pattern of moderate trade winds and isolated showers will persist for at least the next week. In the coastal waters, 4 to 6 ft seas will reach 7 ft at times east of the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88 | 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	62 | 56 °F
Beijing	Thunderstorms	83 | 68 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 | 74 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	59 | 49 °F
London	Overcast	57 | 50 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79 | 59 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	90 | 78 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	63 | 43 °F
Miami	Sunny	85 | 76 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	61 | 52 °F
Osaka	Sunny	78 | 60 °F
Paris	Cloudy	66 | 45 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	83 | 61 °F
Rome	Sunny	74 | 51 °F
Salem	Cloudy	83 | 53 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	76 | 55 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	81 | 59 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	71 | 57 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	64 | 57 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
9:17 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01
1:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.47
9:00 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	-	1:12 AM	1:09 PM
Friday	-	1:58 AM	2:01 PM
Saturday	-	2:41 AM	2:52 PM
Sunday	-	3:22 AM	3:42 PM
Monday	-	4:01 AM	4:30 PM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

SEATOUCH lets you interact with stingrays

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

SEATOUCH, which allows people to get up close and personal with stingrays, is back.

May 2 saw the rebirth of SEATOUCH at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, this time under the aegis of TanHoldings Corp.

SEATOUCH, a marine animal experience that allowed people to interact with stingrays and sharks, was in operation in 2015 under the Baldyga Group but its operation got blown out of the water by the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor. That did not stop Jerry Tan, president of TanHoldings, from reviving this tourist attraction.

"I feel that the CNMI is a beautiful tourist destination and that we need to add more attraction for tourists and residents. Since we already started SEATOUCH, I wanted to make sure we do not lose it so I asked a team to make a study to bring it back," Tan said.

Ivan Quichocho, TanHoldings vice president, said in his welcome speech that the SEATOUCH experience is not offered anywhere else in the region. The closest one like this would be in Jamaica and the Bahamas.

"We should all be proud that this is available in our lovely island and be boastful of this offering that is unique to our island destination," said Quichocho.

He promised that, aside from playing with stingrays, SEATOUCH will very shortly—"within this year"—offer an interactive experience with sharks.

People should expect to see many changes with this relaunch. SEATOUCH's marine animal consultant, David Foster, said: "We saw the weak points, we saw the mistakes so we made them better. Aside from the new stingrays in the facility, we have four of the original pink whiprays and one of the original sharks before the typhoon."

The interaction with the 13 stingrays is guaranteed safe. "Swimming, petting, and playing with our stingrays is safe. They are well-trained and we removed the barbs from their tails. They are gentle creatures. Their skin is soft and delicate and they do not have a fishy odor. Also, one of the unique features of SEATOUCH is that the facility is located in the ocean and not in an aquarium. So the stingrays are in their right and natural environment," said SEATOUCH operations manager Rommel Catalma.

SEATOUCH is operated by a staff of eight and guests are guaranteed that the interaction will be supervised by experienced marine handlers.

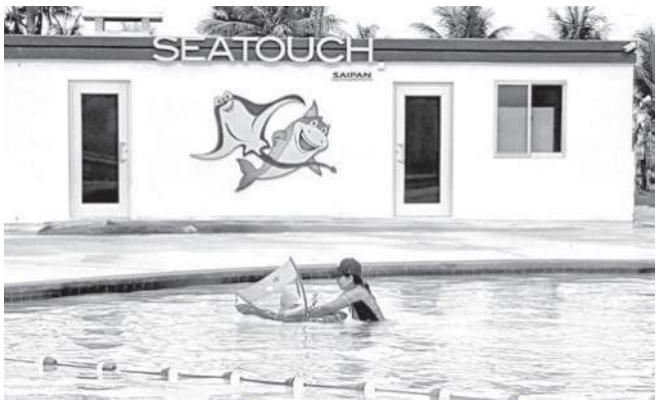
"Our handlers are trained and holders of first aid and lifeguard certificates. At any given point, there's a lifeguard watching over the facility during the interaction and when guests are in the facility. We want an environment that is not only safe for the stingrays but for the guests as well," Catalma added.

Ed Arriola, head of Sales and Marketing for SEATOUCH, said, "We are excited about the relaunch… because this also gives us the opportunity to tie it up with another brand, Let's Go, an off-road adventure, mountain, and trail off-road biking. That way, customer can go to the mountain then come down to SEATOUCH and play with the stingrays."

SEATOUCH also aims to be an educational experience. "Besides tourism, this would also be educational for tourists and residents. We invite local residents, young people, students to come, enjoy and learn from the interaction," Tan said.

The schedules of interactions are 8:30am, 10:30am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm. For information and booking, call SEATOUCH at 233-7297 or 287-4985.

Children watch the stingray in amazement. BEA CABRERA



The SEATOUCH facility is located at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

Performers do a cultural dance at the opening of the SEATOUCH facility. BEA CABRERA

From left, Ivan Quichocho of TanHoldings, Bruce Bateman of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Jerry Tan of TanHoldings, Eli Arago of TanHoldings, and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero lead the ribbon cutting to signify the relaunch of SEATOUCH. BEA CABRERA

Ivan Quichocho, TanHoldings vice president for Business Development, welcomes guests at SEATOUCH 's relaunch. BEA CABRERA

Children get ready for the chance to pet the stingray named "Fuzz." BEA CABRERA

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan pets a stingray named "Maui" as marine animal consultant David Foster looks on. BEA CABRERA

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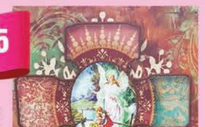

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Business

Apple's growing cash stash spurs talk of huge acquisition

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As Apple's stash of cash grows, so does the possibility that the world's most valuable company will use some of the money for a huge acquisition that would expand its empire beyond iPhones and other gadgets.

The company currently holds more than a quarter-trillion dollars it could use to go shopping. So far, the guessing game has primarily focused on possible targets such as Netflix and Tesla Motors. Either deal could make sense, given Apple's long-running interest in providing a TV service to consumers and its more recent work on self-driving cars .

But in recent months the takeover talk has swirled around whether Apple might do something even more dramatic by making a bid for Walt Disney Co.

THE MOUSE AND THE APPLE

Such a combination would create the world's first company worth $1 trillion. Beyond that, an Apple-Disney marriage would unite some of the world's most successful brands in technology and entertainment—a list that includes the iPhone, iPad, Mac computer, Mickey Mouse, Disneyland, ESPN, Lucasfilm, Pixar and Marvel.

"If there's a deal out there that would strike fear in the hearts of Silicon Valley and Hollywood, this could be it," RBC Capital Markets analyst Amit Daryanani wrote in a recent research report assessing the logic of an Apple-Disney combination.

Apple doesn't discuss specific companies that it might buy, but it's exploring far and wide, according to Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri. "We are looking at every size of acquisition, so we will see how it goes going forward," Maestri told The Associated Press in a Tuesday interview.

Disney hasn't given any inclination that it's looking for a buyer, but publicly held companies are required to consider all takeover offers. Buying Disney would be expensive. Daryanani estimates that Apple would have to pay $157 per share, or about $250 billion.

TREASURE CHEST

Apple is one of the few companies—if not the only one—that could pay that sum out of its pocket. The Cupertino, California, company ended March with nearly $257 billion in cash and marketable securities, according to numbers released Tuesday with Apple's earnings report for the January-March quarter.

That's up from $233 billion a year ago, and the figure is expected to keep growing as Apple piles up more profits from the iPhone, iPad and Mac, as well as the applications and services that feed those devices. In its latest quarter, Apple's earnings climbed 5 percent to $11 billion while revenue also rose 5 percent to nearly $53 billion.

In recent years, Apple has used a large chunk of its cash to provide its shareholders with extra income. The company disclosed plans on Tuesday to raise its quarterly dividend by more than 10 percent to 63 cents per share, marking the fifth increase in five years. Apple also has spent $151 billion buying back its own stock since 2012.

Doing a mega-deal would be a major departure for Apple, whose largest acquisition to date was its $3 billion purchase of Beats Electronics in 2014 that helped launch its music streaming service.

THE SLOWING SMARTPHONE

But Daryanani and other analysts believe Apple may need to make a pricier acquisition to lessen the company's dependence on the iPhone at a time when smartphone sales have been slowing.

IPhone sales edged up 1 percent in Apple's latest quarter, extending a recovery from an unprecedented downturn last year.

But many investors remain concerned that Apple has become too vulnerable to the ups and downs of the smartphone market, mostly because the company hasn't been able to come up with another hit product since the 2011 death of its co-founder and CEO, Steve Jobs. Apple's last big success, the iPad, came out in 2010, but sales of the tablet have been declining for more than three years.

Lawmakers to airlines: Improve service or Congress steps in

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chief executive of United Airlines apologized Tuesday on Capitol Hill for an incident in which a passenger was dragged off a flight, calling it "a mistake of epic proportions" as frustrated lawmakers warned airline executives to improve customer service or face congressional intervention.

House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, R-Pa., said carriers should use the notoriety of the violent event—and a separate incident in which a mother with a stroller was bullied by a flight attendant—to make long-needed improvements. If the airlines don't make changes, Congress is likely to step in, Shuster and other lawmakers said.

"Seize this opportunity," Shuster told United CEO Oscar Munoz and other airline executives at a hearing.

Otherwise, "we're going to act and you're not going to like it," he said, predicting a "one-size-fits-all" solution that may serve some airlines but not others.

Shuster provided no specifics on what steps Congress would take to fix airline service. But several members of Congress have introduced legislation to ban the bumping of passengers if flights are overbooked.

Munoz repeatedly apologized for the April 9 incident in which passenger David Dao was smashed in the face—suffering a broken nose, concussion and other injuries—as he was removed from a flight where he was already seated. Munoz vowed to do better as he and other airline executives faced tough questions from lawmakers.

"It was a mistake of epic proportions, clearly, in hindsight," Munoz told the transportation panel at the 4 1/2-hour hearing. Dao, a 69-year-old Kentucky physician, was treated in a way that no customer—or individual—should be treated, Munoz said, calling it a "terrible experience" that should never be repeated.

But lawmakers said problems with air travel are commonplace.

Some airline don't charge baggage fees, while some do, said Rep. Michael Capuano, D-Mass. Lines are long, planes are delayed yet prices keep going up, he said.

"We've got to fly. You got us," Capuano said. "If you want to keep treating us this way, fine ... but there will come a day when Congress won't accept it anymore on behalf of the American people."

Nation

AP Sources: Justice will not charge Baton Rouge officers

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department has decided not to charge two white Baton Rouge police officers in the death of a black man whose fatal shooting was captured on cellphone video, fueling protests in Louisiana's capital and beyond, The Associated Press has learned.

AP

Everett Matthews, of Baton Rouge, La., holds up a sign outside the Triple S Food Mart, where Alton Sterling was killed last year, in Baton Rouge, La., Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

Federal authorities opened a civil rights investigation immediately after the July 5, 2016, police shooting that killed Alton Sterling, 37, outside a convenience store where he was selling homemade CDs.

A person familiar with the decision disclosed it to the AP on Tuesday. The person was not authorized to talk publicly about the decision and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The department's decision doesn't preclude state authorities from conducting their own investigation and pursuing their own criminal charges.

Two cellphone videos of Sterling's deadly struggle with two white officers, Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II, quickly spread on social media after the shooting.

A police report says Sterling was initially jolted with a stun gun after he didn't comply with the officers' commands to put his hands on the hood of a car. The report also says the officers saw the butt of a gun in one of Sterling's pants pockets and saw him try to reach for it before he was shot.

Outside the convenience store, dozens of people gathered Tuesday upon hearing the news and held a vigil. One of Alton's aunts spoke at the vigil and led the crowd in chants of "No justice, no peace!"

"It's been almost a year and we're still suffering like it happened yesterday," said one of Sterling's aunts, Veda Sterling. "We need closure. We need a conviction. We need justice."

Arthur Reed, a local activist, said he broke the news to another of Sterling's aunts, Sandra, in a phone call after seeing the news reports. Reed says she broke down crying and is "heartbroken," not only because of the decision but because the Justice Department didn't notify the family first.

"We just think it wasn't done properly," he said.

No public announcement has been made by the Department of Justice, and many officials in Baton Rouge said they haven't been notified.

"The Governor's Office has not been notified of a timeline or decision regarding the Alton Sterling investigation. We have been in constant contact with the U.S. Attorney's Office and were assured that both our office and the Sterling family would be given advance notice," said Richard Carbo, a spokesman for Gov. John Bel Edwards.

US firm in Iraq ignores smuggling, security risks for F-16s

WASHINGTON (AP)—An American company that was paid nearly $700 million to secure an Iraqi base for F-16 fighter jets turned a blind eye to alcohol smuggling, theft, security violations, and allegations of sex trafficking—then terminated investigators who uncovered wrongdoing, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Documents and interviews with two former internal investigators and a half-dozen former or current Sallyport Global staff describe schemes at Iraq's Balad Air Base that were major contract violations at best and, if proven, illegal.

The fired investigators, Robert Cole and Kristie King, said they uncovered evidence that Sallyport employees were involved in human trafficking for prostitution. Staff on base routinely flew smuggled alcohol onto the base in such high volumes that a plane once seesawed on the tarmac under the weight. Rogue militia stole enormous generators using flatbed trucks and a 60-foot crane, driving right past Sallyport security guards.

The trouble stretches to headquarters in Reston, Virginia, say the investigators and other ex-employees interviewed by AP. They say what they uncovered was not revealed to the U.S. government, which was footing the $686 million contracting bill, until early this year—after an auditor started asking questions.

The investigators were fired abruptly on March 12—just two months ago—and immediately flown out of Iraq. They say they had been looking into timesheet fraud allegations and were set to interview company managers, whom they considered suspects.

"I feel like they got us out so quickly because they feel like we knew too much," King said in an interview. "When we finally got the idea that they were hiding all of the stuff from the U.S. government, it was mind-blowing."

In a statement to the AP, Sallyport said it follows all contracting rules at the base, home to a squadron of F-16s that are indispensable to the operations of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group.

"Sallyport has a strong record of providing security and life support services in challenging war zones like Iraq and plays a major but unheralded role in the war against ISIS," Chief Operating Officer Matt Stuckart wrote. "The company takes any suggestion of wrongdoing at Balad very seriously."

Asia

Anger growing in S. Korea over US anti-missile system

SEONGJU, South Korea (AP)—The anger is palpable on a narrow road that cuts through a South Korean village where about 170 people live between green hills dotted with cottages and melon fields. It's an unlikely trouble spot in the world's last Cold War standoff.

Aging farmers in this corner of Seongju county, more than 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the capital Seoul, spend the day sitting by the asphalt in tents or on plastic stools, watching vehicles coming and going from a former golf course where military workers are setting up an advanced U.S. missile-defense system.

"Just suddenly one day, Seongju has become the front-line," said a tearful Park Soo-gyu, a 54-year-old strawberry farmer. "Wars today aren't just fought with guns. Missiles will be flying and where would they aim first? Right here, where the THAAD radar is."

THAAD is shorthand for Terminal High Altitude Defense, which the South Korean and U.S. governments say is critical to cope with a growing missile threat from North Korea. When completed, the battery will consist of six truck-mounted launchers that can fire up to 48 interceptors at incoming missiles detected by the system's x-band radar.

Anger has boiled over in Seosongri village since last week when U.S. and South Korean military workers used the early-morning hours to rush key parts of THAAD into place. The system had been scheduled to enter operation by the end of the year, but South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that it is already capable of defending against North Korean missiles. The ministry didn't say when the deployment would be completed.

Hundreds of banners hang on trees and fences along a kilometer (half-mile) stretch of the road up to where police have cut off access. They say "Withdraw the illegal THAAD immediately" and "Stop US militarism," slogans that would feel familiar in a leftist rally but are unusual in the country's traditionally conservative southeast.

"Yankee, go home!" a man yelled as he banged his fist on a car apparently carrying American soldiers, before dozens of police officers peeled him and other protesters away from the vehicle.

The local anger highlights what has arguably become the most explosive issue ahead of a presidential election next week. The May 9 vote will likely end a decadelong conservative rule that maintained a hard line against North Korea and agreed to the THAAD installation.

Front-runner Moon Jae-in, who calls for engagement with the North, has said the deployment of THAAD should be reconsidered. Some media have questioned whether the United States and a caretaker government that took over for ousted former President Park Geun-hye are rushing to complete THAAD before the election.

Earlier polls had showed overwhelming public support for THAAD following North Korean nuclear tests and a long-range rocket launch last year. But public opinion has become more divided amid the corruption scandal that led to Park's downfall and criticism that the government was pushing ahead without seeking the consent of Seongju residents.

Opposition was further inflamed after President Donald Trump said he would make South Korea pay $1 billion for THAAD.

Seongju residents say comments by Trump show the United States may be preparing for a pre-emptive strike against North Korea. They worry that if the North retaliates, THAAD would make their county a main target.

There's also frustration about an increasingly heavy police and military presence in an area where outsiders had been mostly limited to small groups of weekend golfers. Residents are also concerned about the rumored harmful effects the electromagnetic waves from THAAD's radar might have on them and their crops. Seoul's Defense Ministry calls such worries groundless.

ASIAN BRIEFS

13 villagers die in flash floods on Indonesia's Java island

MAGELANG, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers say 13 people have died in flash floods that inundated five villages on Indonesia's main Java island. Torrential rain last week triggered flooding in the villages in the Central Java district of Magelang on Saturday. The chief of the local Disaster Management Agency, Edi Susanto, said the body of an 80-year-old man was retrieved Tuesday, bringing the death toll to 13. Two other villagers were injured. About 1,500 rescuers, including soldiers, police and volunteers took part in the search operation. Indonesia is prone to floods and landslides during seasonal rains. Many of the country's 256 million people live in mountainous areas or on fertile, flood-prone plains near rivers.

Afghan officials: Suicide attack on convoy kills at least 4

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials say that at least four people have been killed in a suicide car bomb attack in the capital Kabul. Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said Wednesday the target of the bomber was a convoy of foreign forces. Wahid Mujro, the public health ministry spokesman, said four bodies have been brought to a hospital so far. He also said 22 others were wounded. He didn't say whether the casualties are civilians or military, but he added that the number could change from the initial reports. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul, but the Taliban have increased attacks across the country since spring began.

Malaysian family sue Honda, Takata in US over air bag defect

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian man has sued Honda and the Takata Corp. for wrongful death after his wife was killed in a car accident that left shrapnel from a defective air bag part lodged in her skull. Nida Fatin Mat Asis, a 29-year-old doctor, was driving the Honda City that crashed in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state on April 16 last year. An autopsy found shrapnel from a Takata air bag inflator in the base of her skull. The lawsuit was filed in a U.S. District court in Michigan on Monday. Her father, Mat Asis Mahnoon, said Wednesday the family decided to file the lawsuit after Takata pleaded guilty to fraud in February for concealing the defect blamed for at least 16 deaths globally.

World

Trump and Putin signal new effort to cooperate on Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin signaled improving prospects for cooperation in Syria Tuesday in what the White House called a "very good" phone discussion that included a focus on setting up safe zones in the war-torn nation.

The Kremlin said the leaders also agreed to try to set up their first in-person meeting in July, on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany. The White House later confirmed that information.

Tuesday's call marked the first time Trump and Putin have spoken since the U.S. launched missiles against an air base in Syria, an attack that outraged Russia, one of the Syrian government's strongest backers. The U.S. military action sparked new tensions between Washington and Moscow, with top U.S. officials sharply condemning Putin's continued support for embattled Syrian leader Bashar Assad.

But the leaders appeared to again be edging toward closer cooperation following Tuesday's call. The Kremlin said Trump and Putin agreed to bolster diplomatic efforts to resolve the Syrian civil war, which has left hundreds of thousands dead and millions more displaced. The White House announced it would send a top State Department official to Russian-led talks on Syria that begin Wednesday in Kazakhstan.

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks to the media after his talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at Putin's residence in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

"President Trump and President Putin agreed that the suffering in Syria has gone on for far too long and that all parties must do all they can to end the violence," the White House said. "The conversation was a very good one, and included the discussion of safe, or de-escalation, zones to achieve lasting peace for humanitarian and many other reasons."

The Kremlin characterized the call as "business-like" and "constructive." It made no mention of safe zones.

Since taking office, Trump has been raising the prospect of safe zones in Syria with world leaders. The zones would be aimed at protecting civilians—and dissuading Syrian refugees from trying to come to the United States, one of Trump's goals. But military leaders have warned that significant American resources would be required to safeguard the regions.

Whether the U.S. and Russia can find a way forward is deeply uncertain. The U.S. has long sought Moscow's help in Syria, where the civil war has created a vacuum for the Islamic State and other extremist groups. But Russia's ongoing support for Assad has been a persistent roadblock.

Plagiarism or a 'wink'? Le Pen lifts conservative's speech

PARIS (AP)—Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen lifted verbatim parts of a speech by a former rival in what her critics called plagiarism and she said was a deliberate "wink" to him to woo his conservative voters in France's presidential runoff Sunday.

The stolen words and casual reaction by Le Pen and her team marked the latest shocking development in a French presidential campaign like no other. Perhaps more surprisingly, there was little sign it would seriously damage Le Pen.

Polls consider her centrist rival Emmanuel Macron the front-runner in the vote, seen as a test of global populism and decisive moment for the European Union.

Le Pen borrowed from a speech delivered last month by Francois Fillon, the former Republicans party candidate, about France's important role in Europe and the world.

The subject is at the heart of Le Pen's campaign. She promises to restore French glory, pull France out of the EU and return to the franc currency. She has denounced the effects of globalization on the French economy and culture.

Speaking April 15, Fillon described France as a force reaching out on multiple fronts:

"The English Channel and the North Sea opening onto the Anglo-Saxon world and to the immense northern spaces. ... The Atlantic, which has opened us for centuries onto the great sea and brings us adventures. The Mediterranean, the cradle of some of history's oldest and richest civilizations. ... The Pyrenees, first of all, engaging France with that immense Hispanic and Latin universe. The Alps border, with Italy our sister and beyond that central Europe, the Balkans and eastern Europe. ... France is something more and much more than an economic, agricultural or military power."

Le Pen, speaking Monday at a Paris region campaign rally, said:

"The English Channel and the North Sea opening onto the Anglo-Saxon world and to the immense northern spaces. The Mediterranean, the cradle of the oldest and richest civilizations. The Pyrenees, first of all, engaging France with that immense Hispanic and Latin universe. The Alps border, with Italy our sister and beyond that central Europe, the Balkans and eastern Europe. ... France is something more and much more than an economic, agricultural or military power."

Like three of her aides earlier in the day, Le Pen used the word "wink" to describe the extracts copied word for word from Fillon. At no point in the speech did she cite Fillon or acknowledge the source.

Focus

By TED ANTHONY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
This combination of photos shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Unon April 15, 2017, in Pyongyang, North Korea, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington on April 29, 2017. The notion of a substantive sit-down between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump – the most gazed-upon figures of this moment in the planet's history – is a staggering prospect and a potential logistical nightmare if the two countries ever tried to make it happen.

What on earth might a Trump-Kim Jong Un meeting look like?

BANGKOK (AP)—In one corner: the unpredictable dictator, the third-generation family ruler whose nation has a seven-decade reputation of being erratic, quick to take umbrage and insistent that it is powerful enough to upend the planet. In the other corner: a sandpaper-tongued American president like no other, barely past his first 100 days as leader of the free world, liable to say just about anything—including a handful of conciliatory words at the most unexpected of moments.

On Monday, those conciliatory words from the mouth of Donald Trump included some extraordinary ones about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, long an object of American scorn and suspicion.

There were these words from Trump: "Obviously, he's a pretty smart cookie."

And, even more so, there were these: "If it would be appropriate for me to meet with him," Trump told Bloomberg News, "I would absolutely, I would be honored to do it."

Wow, says an astonished world: What if?

In the annals of diplomatic history, such a tete-a-tete, unlikely as it is, would tumble into a category that offers few possible comparisons.

There are the ones that never happened—Roosevelt sitting down with Hitler during World War II, George Bush (whichever one) facing Saddam Hussein while in office. And there are those that did: Kennedy meeting Khrushchev in Vienna, Nixon arriving in Beijing at the dawn of the U.S.-China thaw and immediately heading to a meeting with Mao.

Even those, however, were before many things we take for granted today—perhaps most notably the internet, live television and the instantaneous social-media pipelines that Trump knows and uses so fluidly.

The notion of a substantive sit-down between two of the most gazed-upon figures of this moment in the planet's history is a staggering prospect—and a potential logistical nightmare if the two countries ever tried to make it happen.

Presuming that such a trial balloon is to be taken seriously, what, in fact, would it take to pull off? The loose contours of it could play out as follows:

THE VENUE

Possible locations could include the DMZ, which would be about as cinematic a piece of drama as human geopolitics could offer up, with a room featuring negotiation tables that sit halfway in the North and halfway in the South.

The benefit of this location would be the presence of existing security. It's already the nucleus of one of the most tense patches of the planet, and it's effectively already wired for such an event. Somewhere in China would be a possible, though highly unlikely, location as well.

But could it be elsewhere? Perhaps famously neutral Switzerland, where the now-infrequent world traveler Kim Jong Un almost certainly spent part of his upbringing attending school? Could it possibly even be the White House, where Trump has already caused uproars by hosting the president of Egypt and by calling the president of Turkey, both perceived in the West as hardly the most robust upholders of American values. That would be highly controversial and even more unlikely—just getting Kim a visa would be an interesting proposition—but stranger things have happened.

Or perhaps, gaming it out, things might take place in an unexpected or even unknown place. In 1989, George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met on a ship off Malta to discuss the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and it propelled the tiny Mediterranean island into notoriety for several years. Malta was itself a follow-up in some ways to the fabled Yalta conference, in which Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin met in Crimea in early 1945 to plot out Europe's post-war configurations.

The United States has been the site of such sensitive meetings, too, with Camp David being the most notable locale for its Carter-administration peace talks between Israel's Menachem Begin and Egypt's Anwar Sadat. The history of such things is lengthy; in 1905, Theodore Roosevelt helped broker peace between the warring nations of Japan and Russia in the unlikely locale of a small New England town. More recently, the unlikely venue of Dayton, Ohio, became the site in 1995 of peace accords to end the Bosnian war. But those were other nations in conflict, not the United States itself.

And what about Pyongyang? There would be precedent for that—from U.S. envoys like Madeleine Albright to a previous Japanese prime minister to faded basketball star Dennis Rodman—and the Kims are not known for their love of foreign travel, which carries them away from turf and situations they can completely control.

Whatever the case, barring it taking place at the DMZ, such a high-stakes, high-security Trump-Kim meeting would change a place for a long time, if not forever.

THE TOPICS

Nuclear disarmament—North Korea's—would be first on the table. You'd think. But with two such unpredictable rulers, no one could be absolutely certain.

Given Trump's style so far, time might be given to developing some sort of rapport between the two men before any negotiations began. But major topics would surely emerge before too long.

Among them: Aid to the North, which has played the brinkmanship game many times before with an eye toward getting assistance for its poor, sometimes hungry populace. Relations with the South. And weapons tests—missile and in particular nuclear, which make the United States and China, not to mention the South, very uncomfortable.

THE REACTION

The wildcards here would be South Korea, Russia, and, of course, China—the North's patron for many decades and, of late, its increasingly wary and irritated neighbor.

In South Korea's case, such a meeting would be an existential event. Most agree that Kim's arsenal has enough accuracy and firepower to devastate the South, and so a meeting between the United States, South Korea's military protector, and the North would have serious security implications for Seoul even if virtually nothing of substance was discussed.

China is wary of any U.S. involvement in its sphere of influence, and is already at odds with Washington about territorial claims in the South China Sea, while the perennial issue of Taiwan's autonomy always lurks in the background. Beijing has courted South Korea in recent years more than before, with Chinese President Xi Jinping visiting Seoul in 2014 in what was seen as a hint to the North. (Recent Chinese trepidations over THAAD, the U.S.-made missile system being set up in South Korea, have restored some of the tension with Beijing.)

Against this backdrop, any Trump-Kim sit-down would, using conventional wisdom, have to involve China and the pressure it can exert on the North—something the Trump White House has always said was necessary. But protocol does not always seem to be the order of the day, as Trump's unexpected, pre-inauguration call to Taiwan's new president underscored.

Finally, Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, would watch from afar with great wariness and probable dismay. Such a meeting could alter Moscow's relationships with both Beijing and Washington, and probably Pyongyang as well.

Oh, and let's not forget the media reaction. Obviously any such meeting would be THE visual of the year for news organizations. Setting it up as a media event would draw hundreds if not thousands of news outlets. That would mean a major infrastructure setup that's on par with a summit meeting of leaders or an Olympics.

THE ALLURE

Whatever the political implications, this much is certain: Any meeting with Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, anywhere in the world, would be—if it ever actually happened—one of the most dramatic events of the 21st century thus far.

It would encompass three major global narratives at once: The United States under Donald Trump, and what his administration means; the Kim family and the unique, mercurial way they have ruled North Korea and projected themselves to the world; and the regional security and defense of East Asia, one of the most strategically pivotal regions in the world.

It would be big. It would be loud. It would be momentous, somewhat surreal and entirely unexpected. All things quite familiar to the worlds of two singular, bound-to-change-the-world men named Kim Jong Un and Donald J. Trump.

Then again, you might not want to hold your breath. This came in Tuesday afternoon from the official news agency for North Korea, which goes by the formal name Democratic People's Republic of Korea: "The Trump administration that newly took office in the U.S. is provoking the DPRK with no reason, not knowing what rival it stands against."

Environment

Bugs have stranglehold on Southern California region's urban forest

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The trees that shade, cool and feed people in California from Ventura County to the Mexican border are dying so fast that within a few years it's possible that the region will look, feel, sound and smell much less pleasant than it does now.

"We're witnessing a transition to a post-oasis landscape in Southern California," said Greg McPherson, a supervisory research forester with the U.S. Forest Service who has been studying what he and others call an unprecedented die-off of the trees in Southern California's parks, campuses and yards.

Botanists in recent years have documented insect and disease infestations in the region, devastating Griffith Park's sycamores and destroying more than 100,000 willows in San Diego County's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, for example.

McPherson's is the first survey to quantify and assess the big picture.

It's not a pretty one.

His initial estimate is that just one particularly dangerous menace — the polyphagous shot hole borer beetle — could kill as many as 27 million trees in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including parts of the desert.

That's roughly 38 percent of the 71 million trees in the 4,244 square mile urban region with a population of about 20 million people.

And that insect is just one of the threats.

"Many of the trees we grow evolved in temperate climates and can't tolerate the stress of drought, water restrictions, higher salinity levels in recycled water, wind and new pests that arrive almost daily via global trade and tourism, local transportation systems, nurseries and the movement of infected firewood," he said.

If as many trees as projected die, the cost to remove and replace them could be about $36 billion, McPherson said.

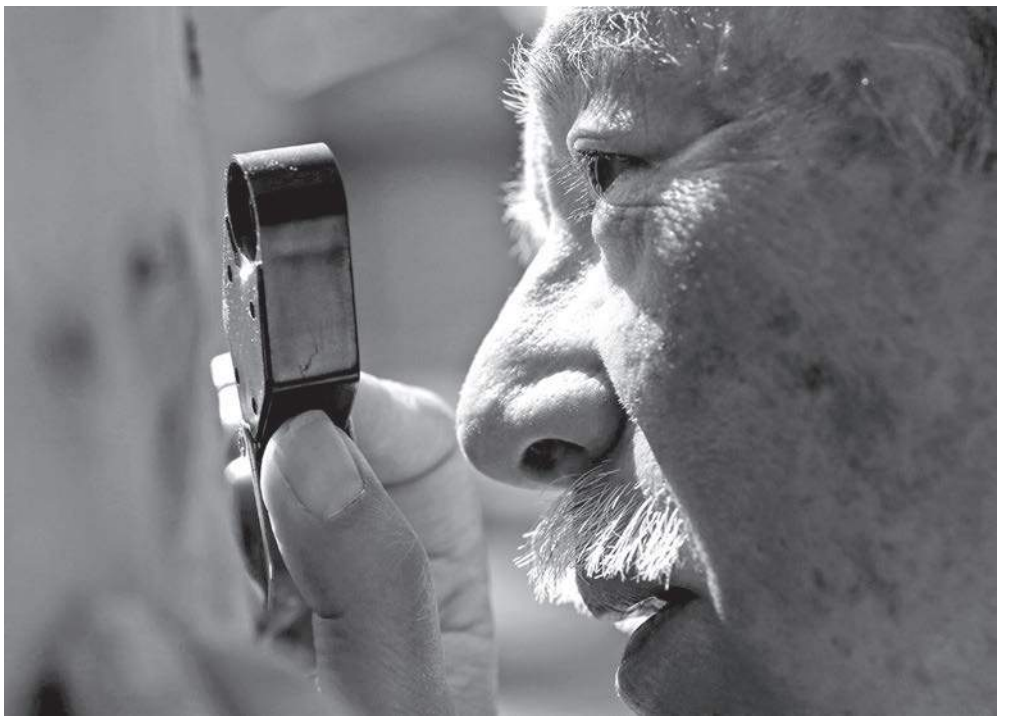
But Southern Californians would face many other costs.

"Catastrophic loss of our canopy would have consequences for human health and well-being, property values, air-conditioning savings, carbon storage, the removal of pollutants from the air we breathe, and wildlife habitat," McPherson said.

Jerrold Turney, plant pathologist for Los Angeles County, likened the surge in urban tree mortality to "watching a train wreck in slow motion."

"It's heartbreaking," he said, "to see trees dying in such dramatic numbers in famously lush cities like Pasadena, Alhambra and Arcadia: sycamores, all the maples, olives, liquidambars, flower plums, myrtles, oleanders and oaks."

Mark Hoddle, director of the Center for Invasive Species Research at the University of California, Riverside, said the tree loss is "starting to cascade across the urban landscape."



TNS

Dr. John Kabashima with the University Of California Agriculture and Natural Resources inspects an infested tree on the grounds of Craig Regional Park on April 7, 2017 in Fullerton, Calif. The dying sycamores are infested with an invasive beetle, the polyphagous shot hole borer.

"Without shade trees, water temperatures will rise and algae will bloom in riparian areas, for instance," Hoddle said. "As a result, fish, frog and native insect populations will diminish, along with the pleasure of hiking, because there'll be nothing to look at but dead boughs of trees.

"And there will be no miraculous recovery of these urban ecosystems after the beetles are done with them."

"Here's the sad news about sycamores," said Akif Eskalen, a plant pathologist at UC Riverside. "If we cannot control the shot hole borer, it will kill all the sycamores in California. And when they're done with sycamores, they'll move to other trees."

By 2012, pathologists knew that the shot hole borer was transmitting a fatal fungal disease to 19 species of trees in Southern California, he said. Since then, scientists have identified 30 additional host species.

"We expect the number of tree hosts to grow even higher over the next few years," Eskalen said. "And at this point, there's not much we can do about that."

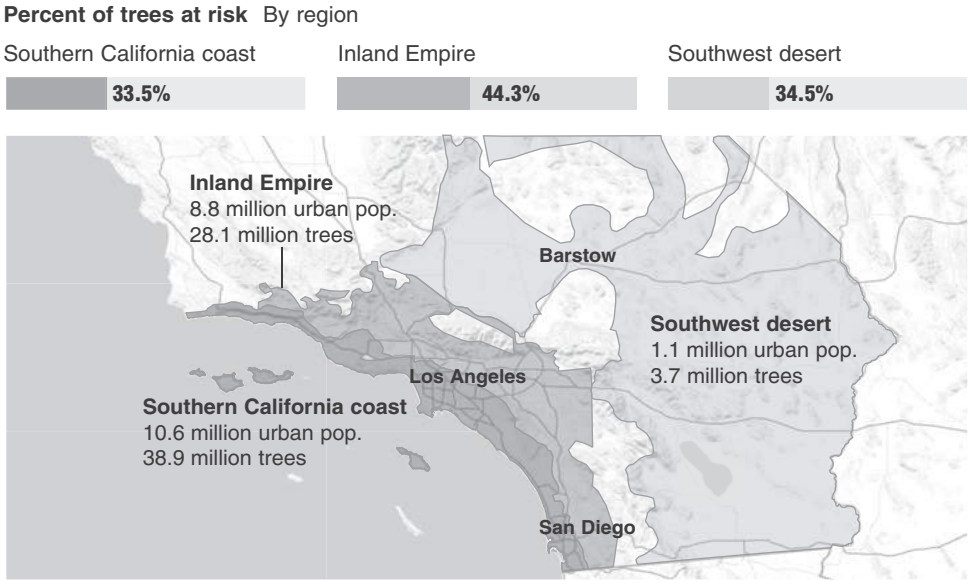
Meanwhile, the relatively recent invasion of shot hole borers is only part of the crisis that scientists are trying to control.

In San Diego County, it was a cousin of the polyphagous beetle, the Kuroshio shot hole borer, that infested more than 144,000 willow trees in Tijuana River Valley Regional Park last year, officials said.

Southern California's environmental terror: A beetle

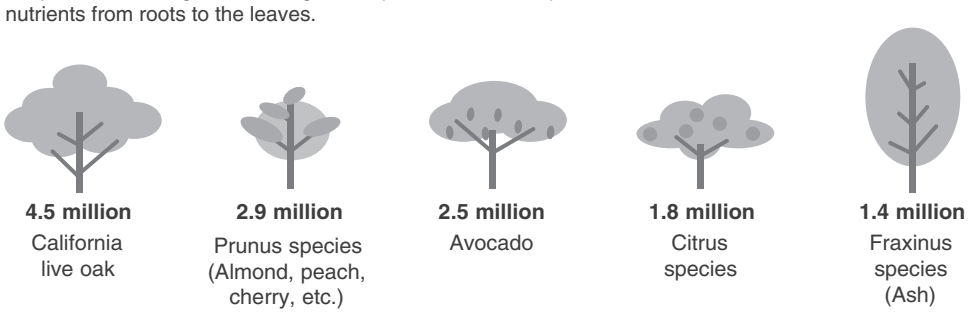
Nearly 38% of all trees in some of Southern California's most populated regions are at risk of dying due to one type of beetle: the polyphagous shot hole borer.

Percent of trees at risk By region



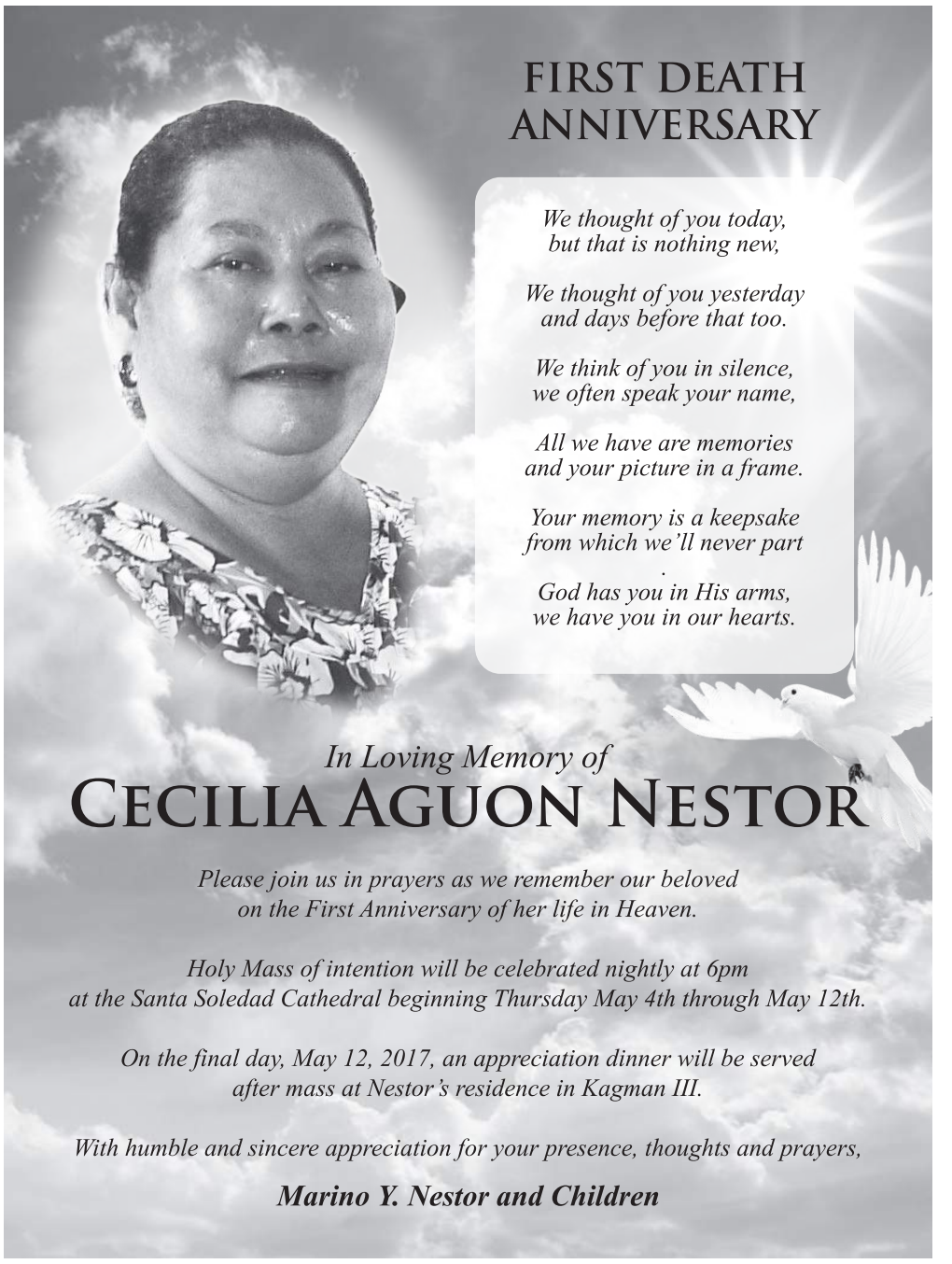
Tree species at most risk

The polyphagous shot hole borer breeds by penetrating into tree trunks and in the process emitting a lethal fungus that prevents the transport of water and nutrients from roots to the leaves.



Source: U.S. Forest Service, QGIS

Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS

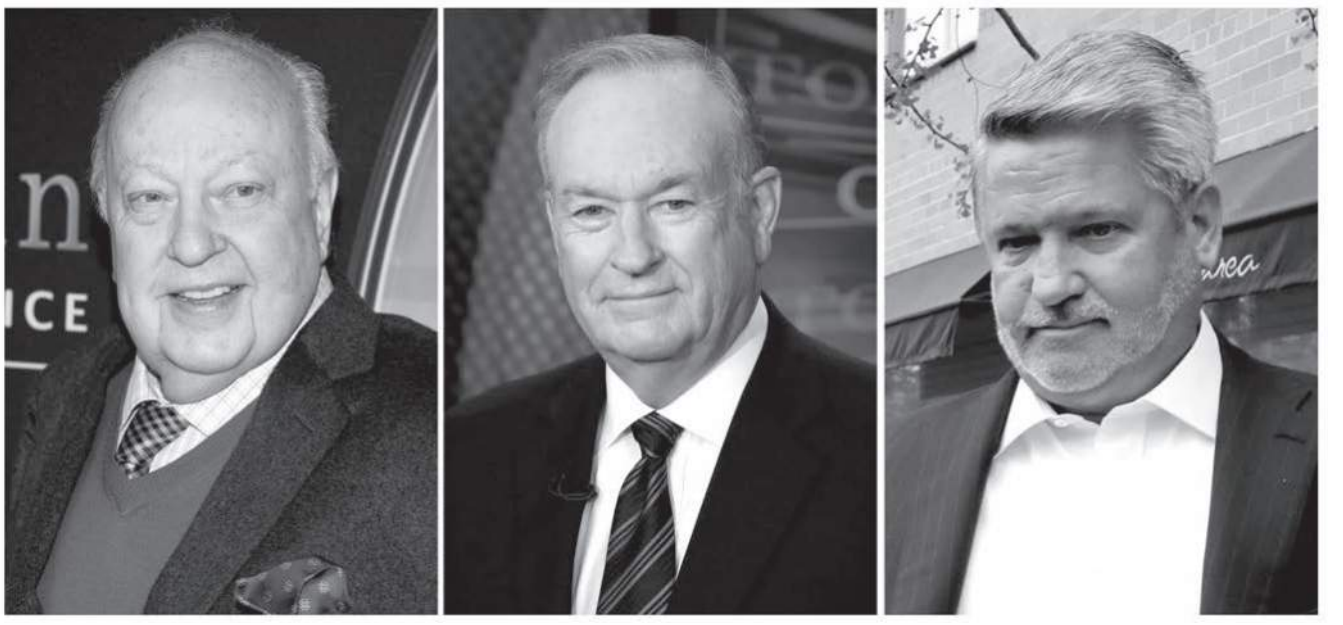

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
We thought of you today,
but that is nothing new,
We thought of you yesterday
and days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
we often speak your name,
All we have are memories
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake
from which we'll never part
.
God has you in His arms,
we have you in our hearts.
In Loving Memory of
CECILIA AGUON NESTOR
Please join us in prayers as we remember our beloved
on the First Anniversary of her life in Heaven.
Holy Mass of intention will be celebrated nightly at 6pm
at the Santa Soledad Cathedral beginning Thursday May 4th through May 12th.
On the final day, May 12, 2017, an appreciation dinner will be served
after mass at Nestor's residence in Kagman III.
With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, thoughts and prayers,
Marino Y. Nestor and Children

Life & Style

Pressure on Fox to change not likely to go away

NEW YORK (AP)—Stories about an abusive workplace at Fox News Channel aren't likely to go away even after claiming the jobs of Roger Ailes, Bill O'Reilly and Bill Shine.

The continued presence of other executives implicated in stories about harassment, discrimination and intimidation complicate Fox's ability to change its culture, both in practice and public perception. One of those executives was promoted with Fox's announcement Monday that Shine, Fox's co-president since founding CEO Roger Ailes was ousted last summer, had resigned.



In this combination photo, from left, Roger Ailes, Bill O'Reilly, and Fox News co-president Bill Shine. AP

"There's a case to be made that the place is so toxic and radioactive and there's very little you can do unless you wipe out everybody and start fresh," said David Lewis, CEO of OperationsInc, a human resources provider based in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Fox's parent 21st Century Fox is attempting the turnaround while trying to protect its greatest asset—a thriving, profitable news network that's essential to its politically conservative fans and thus far unhurt by ugly stories about its Manhattan headquarters. The risk in a sudden, wholesale housecleaning is removing all of the people who know how to run it successfully.

Fox News has maintained its status as the top-ranked cable news network despite the loss of Ailes and O'Reilly, its top-rated prime-time star. Another Fox personality, Sean Hannity, assured fans he was staying despite his public support for Shine, a close colleague. Shine had been accused of looking the other way at behavior by Ailes and O'Reilly, even retaliating against people who complained.

Suzanne Scott, a 21-year Fox veteran who was promoted to president of programming Monday, has been named in three lawsuits filed against Fox in recent months.

Andrea Tantaros, a Fox personality who had accused Ailes of sexual harassment, said nothing had been done after she complained of his behavior to Scott. Similarly, news anchor Kelly Wright, who has accused Fox of discriminatory behavior, said Scott failed to address concerns he had expressed to her. Fox's Julie Roginsky said in her lawsuit that Scott tried to recruit her to disparage Gretchen Carlson, the anchor who was the first to accuse Ailes of sexual harassment. Scott said through a spokeswoman that she never asked women to back Ailes.

Fox's chief counsel, Dianne Brandi, has also been mentioned several times by former and current Fox employees who had concerns about how they were treated.

The lawsuit on racial discrimination, of which Wright is among 13 plaintiffs, talks about an atmosphere of hostility created by Judith Slater, Fox's since-fired comptroller. One of the plaintiffs, Monica Douglas, said she complained about Slater's behavior to Brandi and was told Slater would not be fired because "she knew too much" about the behavior of other Fox executives.

Brandi has denied the accusations through a Fox spokeswoman, and Slater has disputed the characterizations of her behavior through a lawyer.

Entertainer recalls 'infectious smile' of shooting victim

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Monique Clark was remembered for her infectious smile by her friends, including entertainer Nick Cannon who wrote on social media that "tears can't express the pain and shock" that she was gunned down over the weekend in a mass shooting at an apartment complex in San Diego.

The 35-year-old mother of three was the lone person killed by a gunman who shot seven people at a poolside birthday bash Sunday. Police said the shooter was despondent over a recent breakup with a girlfriend.

Cannon, who grew up in San Diego, posted a photo on Instagram of himself and Clark laughing and sitting on stairs when they were young.

"Such a beautiful spirit with an infectious smile," the former host of TV's "America's Got Talent" wrote. "I have nothing but wonderful memories of this Angel."

Two prayer services were planned Wednesday night at local churches and a vigil was also set to be held at the apartment complex to honor Clark, who had three daughters—2, 11 and 13. White flowers and a floral wreath were placed Tuesday outside the pool area.

"She had such a great personality," said Vincent Howard, who met Clark in high school. "She was always smiling. She was always with her kids and everyone else's kids. She was like a mother to them all."

Howard said Clark also helped homeless people, volunteering often at food drives.

Authorities say Clark was shot and killed by 49-year-old Peter Selis, who called his ex-girlfriend during the attack so she could hear him shooting strangers.

Officers killed Selis in a shootout at the upscale apartment complex that owners describe as a Mediterranean village with playgrounds, pools, deli and other facilities. The six other victims were expected to survive.

Clark's family could not be reached for comment. Her mother, Michelle Fuget, wrote on the GoFundMe website that her daughter was beautiful, funny and feisty.

"The grieving process is fresh, raw, and real," Fuget wrote. "My granddaughters lost their mother, I lost my daughter, her siblings lost their sister, and countless other family members and close friends have lost someone who was taken from us too soon due to a senseless" cowardly act of violence.

Another victim, Michigan State University graduate Charnee James, 24, was supposed to start a job at a marketing firm in San Diego on Tuesday but instead was in a hospital after being shot in both legs at the party, her grandfather, Emmuel Gullatt, told the Detroit Free Press.

Her mother, Stacy Gullatt, told the newspaper that James will probably come back home to Michigan to recover but her daughter's dream is to make it in the fashion industry in California.

"She's just got to get over the trauma and the shock," her mother said.

Stars turn out for Planned Parenthood gala honoring Clinton

NEW YORK (AP)—An array of celebrities—from Meryl Streep to Tina Fey to Scarlett Johansson to Julianne Moore to Chelsea Handler—turned out to support Planned Parenthood at its centennial celebration, and to hear Hillary Clinton urge continued activism on behalf of women and girls around the world, and access to services like pregnancy and maternity care.

Advancing women's rights and opportunities, Clinton said at the event Tuesday evening—during which she received an award—"remains the great unfinished business of the 21st century. And some days, it seems like it may be even more unfinished than we'd hoped."

"As we speak," Clinton said, "politicians in Washington are still doing everything they can to roll back the rights and progress we've fought so hard for over the last century. I mean, could you believe those photos of men around that conference table deciding how to strip away coverage for pregnancy and maternity care?"

Clinton, the former Democratic nominee, criticized Republicans for trying to force through a health care plan "that would cost 24 million people their health insurance and would gut funding for Planned Parenthood."

Also honored Tuesday was Shonda Rhimes, the writer and producer of "Grey's Anatomy," ''Scandal" and other shows. She was introduced by Streep, who said Rhimes, through her characters, had changed the way Americans look at women.

Clinton, too, praised Rhimes for "putting strong, empowered women at the center of her stories for a long time."

"One of these days, Shonda," she quipped, "the world may even catch up with you."

Clinton, who has been making increasing public forays as of late, told the crowd with a smile that she highly recommended long walks in the woods—a reference to when she was photographed doing just that after the election. "It's far better than screaming at the television," she said.

And she shared her new motto: "Resist, insist, persist, enlist."

Musician collapses during birthday concert finale and dies

ATLANTA (AP)—When Col. Bruce Hampton slowly fell to his knees during the finale of his star-studded birthday concert, fans and musicians alike thought it was another one of his quirky performance acts.

Fourteen-year-old guitar phenom Brandon "Taz" Niederauer tore into a blistering solo as the 70-year-old man lay motionless at his feet, his arm draped over a speaker.

For several more minutes, dozens of musicians—including John Popper of Blues Traveler, Warren Haynes of The Allman Brothers Band and John Bell of Widespread Panic—jammed away to one of Hampton's favorite songs "Turn On Your Love Light." The fans danced and the musicians smiled as they waited for him to get up.

But Col. Bruce never did.

The eccentric guitarist and singer known as the forefather of the jam band scene died after collapsing Monday night at the end of the show billed by Atlanta's Fox Theatre as "Hampton 70: A Celebration of Col. Bruce Hampton." He had turned 70 a day earlier.

Drummer Jeff Sipe said Hampton made eye contact with him and grinned moments before he went down.

"I think he was smiling goodbye," Sipe said. He noted that Hampton had a heart attack in 2006 and was taking numerous medications while keeping up a rigorous touring schedule. A nurse told him that even if the musicians had responded immediately, he would not have been revived.

Hampton founded several bands, including the Hampton Grease Band and the Aquarium Rescue Unit, and had a knack for surrounding himself with talented musicians, including Derek Trucks of the Tedeschi Trucks Band and Jimmy Herring of Widespread Panic. He was described as a father figure, a spiritual guru and a crazy uncle by those who knew him.

While wealth and fame eluded him, he was widely acknowledged as an influence on other leading musicians. Keyboardist Chuck Leavell of the Rolling Stones, guitarist Peter Buck of R.E.M and drummer Jon Fishman of Phish were among the dozens of performers who honored him on Monday night.

CNN won't run Trump campaign ad referring to 'fake news'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump's supporters are accusing CNN of censorship for not airing an advertisement touting the president's accomplishments, which the network said Tuesday it rejected because it was its own form of fake news.

The ad from Trump's campaign—he became a declared candidate for reelection in 2020 on Jan. 19—says that "America has rarely seen such success" and lists a series of actions from the first 100 days of his presidency.

"You wouldn't know it from watching the news. America is winning, and President Trump is making America great again," the ad says. The faces of NBC's Andrea Mitchell, CNN's Wolf Blitzer, MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, ABC's George Stephanopoulos and CBS' Scott Pelley are shown onscreen behind the phrase "fake news."

CNN said it requested the campaign remove the "false graphic."

"The mainstream media is not fake news, and therefore the ad is false and per policy will be accepted only if that graphic is deleted," CNN tweeted in response.

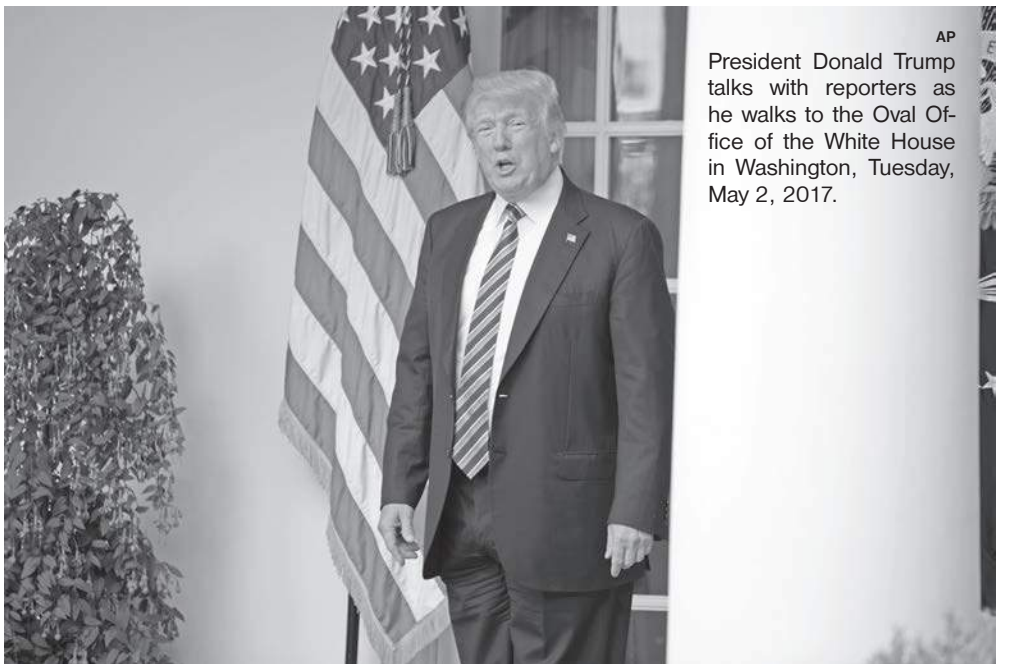
Michael Glassner, executive director of Trump's campaign said that "CNN is trying to silence our voice and censor our free speech" because it doesn't fit the network's narrative.

The campaign is refusing to change its ad, which is running on Fox News Channel and the Fox Business Network. Trump's team is spending $1.5 million to spread its message.

One of Trump's campaign committees quickly dispatched a fundraising pitch tied to the ad flap. "Your support made it all possible," the email says, before asking for contributions of $5 or more. "But the FAKE NEWS MEDIA refuses to tell the truth about our many achievements."

CNN has been a frequent target of Trump's criticism, both during the campaign and during his young presidency. In tweets, he's called CNN "fake news" and "unwatchable." Criticizing media coverage has been in the Republican campaign playbook long before Trump even emerged.

Separately, the campaign changed its ad to remove an image of H.R. McMaster, the national security adviser. Although not illegal, the Department of Defense strongly discourages use of such officials in political advertising.



AP

President Donald Trump talks with reporters as he walks to the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

Comedian Jim Gaffigan's wife Jeannie has brain tumor surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian Jim Gaffigan says his wife and writing partner Jeannie Gaffigan is recovering after surgery to remove a serious brain tumor.

Jim Gaffigan said on his social media pages Monday that two weeks ago an MRI revealed that Jeannie Gaffigan had a large, life-threatening tumor around her brain stem. He says after nine hours of urgent surgery the tumor was completely removed, and she's now recovering at home.

Jeannie Gaffigan posted on her Instagram page "I'm coming back! Thanks for your prayers. I'm alive!"

The 50-year-old Jim Gaffigan is among the most popular stand-up comics in the country, and Jeannie Gaffigan both co-writes his material and produces his TV specials. She was also producer and writer on "The Jim Gaffigan Show," his sitcom that ran for two seasons on the TV Land cable network.

The two have five children together.

Tucker Carlson has 2-book, 8-figure deal, literary reps say

NEW YORK (AP)—Tucker Carlson's star isn't only rising on television.

The Fox News host and longtime conservative commentator has a two-book deal with Threshold Editions, the publisher told The Associated Press on Tuesday. No details were immediately available about the books by Carlson, who has become one of Fox's biggest names with the departures of Megyn Kelly and Bill O'Reilly. Numerous publishers had expressed interest in him and his literary agency, Javelin, says the deal is worth eight figures.

Threshold, a conservative imprint of Simon & Schuster, has also released books by President Donald Trump and former Vice President Dick Cheney among others. "I have long admired the Threshold list and am proud to be published alongside so many of my favorite authors," Carlson said in a statement.

Carlson, who turns 48 later this month, is host of Fox's "Tucker Carlson Tonight," founder of the conservative online publication The Daily Caller and author of "Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News," which came out in 2003. Earlier Tuesday, Nielsen reported that in Fox's first full week with a new prime-time lineup that features Carlson in the hour formerly held by the fired O'Reilly, ratings increased slightly over the previous week.

New Zealand campaign had concerns using Eminem-like song

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The campaign manager for New Zealand's National Party during the 2014 election says she raised concerns about using a song that sounded similar to Eminem's "Lose Yourself" but was told by industry experts it would be fine.

Jo de Joux told the High Court in Wellington on Wednesday she was concerned that using the song "Eminem Esque" raised copyright issues for the party, and she was also worried that Eminem had been associated with hate speech.

Eminem's music publishers Eight Mile Style are suing the political party for copyright infringement after it used the song in TV ads.

De Joux said she sought and received assurances from industry experts that using Eminem Esque was okay because it was part of a licensed music library and was free from copyright issues.

AP

Music composer Jeff Bass leaves a courtroom on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, in Wellington, New Zealand.

Sister can't watch as brother's bullying wife calls the shots

DEAR ABBY: My brother has been married for 11 years to a woman who is very controlling. She's 32, he's 38, and they have two kids.

She has all the traits of a bully. She decided if, when and how they got married, whether to have kids, when and how many. She also decides what he wears and what friends he has. She doesn't allow him to socialize with his friends, controls his work schedule, home schedule, etc. When things don't go her way, she yells and screams.

I'm afraid this unhealthy relationship is beginning to affect their kids. I hate to see him taken advantage of. What can I do or say to him to help him be more assertive? Or should I talk to her instead?

CONCERNED SISTER

DEAR CONCERNED SISTER: You can't wave a magic wand and make someone who isn't assertive be assertive. Nowhere in your letter did you mention that your brother has confided that he's unhappy with his wife running things. If he does, suggest he talk to a psychologist for tips on how to change the dynamic in his marriage. If not, you should stay out of it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a man in my 70s. I want to be married. I have never been, but I have always wanted the experience of a wedding.

The bulk of my life has been spent acquiring five graduate degrees beyond high school. I have terminated several long-term relationships and had two failed engagements.

Is there any hope for a wedding for me before my Maker calls?

FORLORN IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR FORLORN: You may yearn for the experience of a wedding, but have you considered what responsibilities may come afterward? Weddings are expensive, but divorce can be even more so.

I find it interesting that you would ask this question without mentioning that you had a particular love interest in mind. Until you figure out why you have a history of failed relationships, I do not think you should rush to the altar. Throw a nice party instead.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 35-year-old woman who is returning to community college after a 10-year absence. I'm disturbed by the lack of respect that some of my classmates show. Many times they show up 30 to 45 minutes late. (The classes are only an hour and 15 minutes long.) Also, some of them constantly talk during the lectures, forcing the teachers to talk over them.

When I was in college the first time, teachers were allowed to deny a student entry to class if they arrived late and to kick students out if they were causing a disturbance. These students are robbing us of our class time because the teacher must make time to let them in, wait for them to stop talking, etc. Is this just me being too serious, or is this a generational problem of parents not raising children to respect others?

CRANKY COLLEGE LADY

DEAR CRANKY: Neither one. It's a case of a teacher not being in control of his/her classroom. Talk to the teacher about how you feel, and to the head of the department if you think new rules should be put in place. Your point is valid.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

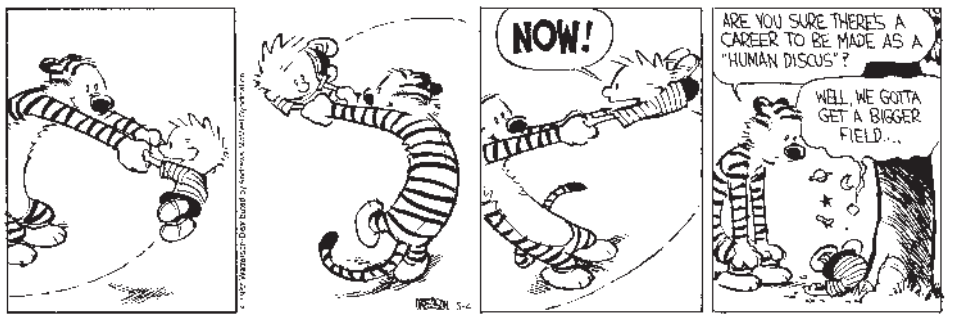
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

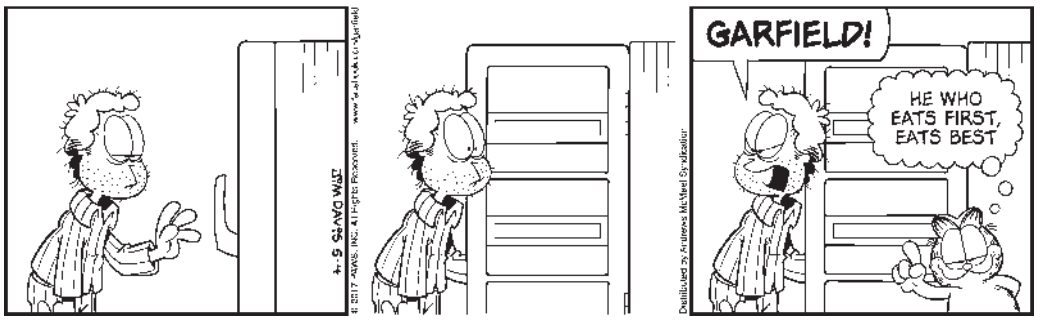
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



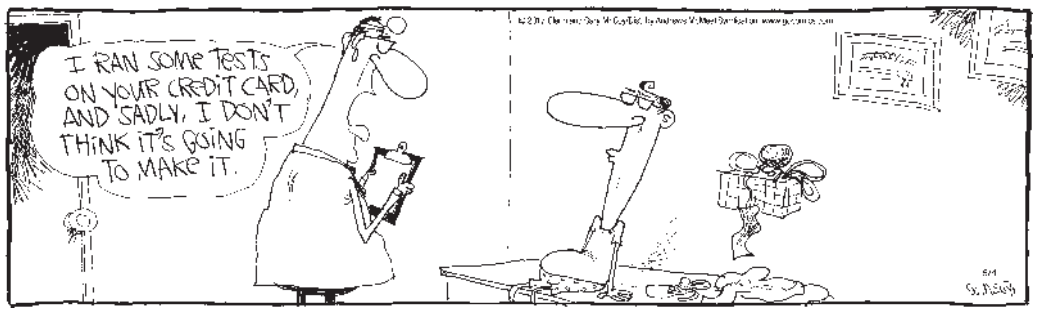
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I SAW THAT.
WHAT?
YOU SNUCK AN OREO. THE DIET APP SEES ALL.
NO, I DIDN'T! I SWEAR!
OH, REALLY? LET ME SEE YOUR TEETH. SMILE FOR ME.
NO. MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO.
SIGH.
LOOK AT YOU.
TURN OFF YOUR CAMERA! I'M HORRIBLE!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Tasty!"
4 Droops
8 Superhero's garment
12 Yucatan year
13 Bangkok cuisine
14 Secondhand
15 Disneyland transport
17 Roe provider
18 Manmouse link
19 Powerball, for one
21 River of Iraq
24 Yacht spot
25 Actress Thurman
26 Twitch
28 Knight wear
32 Unfeeling
34 Stock holder
36 Lady of Spain
37 Sanctuaries
39 Not on
41 Kvetch
42 URL ending
44 Lousy cars
46 Colorful arc
50 Quick swim
51 Alphabet quartet
52 Droning sound
56 Polynesian carving
57 Always
58 Like Abner
59 Eyelid woe
60 Epsilon follower
61 Talk and talk

DOWN
1 Candied veggie
2 Half of dos
3 Philanderer's challenge
4 Narrow waterway
5 "Caught ya!"
6 Author Sheehy
7 Missile shelters
8 Donut filling
9 Tennis great Arthur
10 Bosc, for one
11 Vortex
16 Hockey's Bobby
20 Earl Grey, e.g.
21 Sushi fish
22 Radio host Don
23 Use a straw
27 Corp. boss
29 Popular board game
30 — incline (tilted)
31 Alger's "before"
33 Dagwood's lady
35 Patriots' org.
38 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
40 Soft felt hat
43 "The Addams Family" dad
45 Cambridge sch.
46 "Phooey!"
47 Slightly
48 Evoking an "Ugh!"
49 Used a loom
53 Court divider
54 Actress Vardalos
55 Antlered animal

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	U	P		S	A	G	E		C	O	B	S
T	R	I		A	V	I	D		O	V	A	L
A	D	S		V	I	S	I	O	N	A	R	Y
G	U	A	V	A			E	L	M			
			I	N	C	A		D	E	I	S	T
C	U	L	I	N	A	H	Y		N	O	I	I
O	R	O		A	P	L	U	S		I	A	D
A	G	O	G		S	E	M	I	N	A	R	Y
X	E	N	I	A		N	A	L	A			
			G	N	U			L	E	A	F	Y
I	M	A	G	I	N	A	R	Y		L	O	O
S	A	U	L		I	M	A	M		F	A	Y
I	I	K	F		T	A	P	E		A	D	O

Yesterday's answer 5-4

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rory McIlroy, 28; Erin Andrews, 39; Will Arnett, 47; Randy Travis, 58.

Happy Birthday: Organization, participation and determination will help you iron out any challenges you encounter. This is a year to resolve old issues and move on to new beginnings. Head in a direction that supports what you do best and your confidence will lead the way. Socializing will encourage projects that can take you in a new direction. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 27, 30, 36, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Communication will be your vehicle to success. Open up about the way you feel and how you see things unfolding. Honesty coupled with solutions to whatever needs to be accomplished will put you in the driver's seat. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't limit what you can do by trying to do everything on your own. Be a participant and get involved in projects that allow you to use your skills diversely. Working in conjunction with others will open up a window of opportunity. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Taking physical action will lead to regret. Take a step back and let personal situations unfold naturally. Own up to mistakes and be ready to compromise. Meeting someone halfway will be to your advantage. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Look at all the possibilities. Don't limit what you can do. A new approach to your everyday routine will help you get chores out of the way early, leaving plenty of time to discuss weekend plans with friends, relatives or your peers. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be careful when dealing with people who want something from you. A deal that's proposed will lack substance. Don't agree too quickly to something that you will need to consider thoroughly. Use your intelligence to manipulate situations in your favor. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will swell if you take what's said literally. Don't fall into a trap that alters your course. Be true to yourself and your beliefs and act on what you know will help you build a strong and healthy future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Getting involved in activities that challenge you mentally and physically will help you make decisions that will improve your life. Don't allow anyone to put a dent in your long-term plans. Be prepared to take action. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let emotional anger interfere in business. Make your position clear so that you can get back to business and do what you do best. Draw on whatever inspires you to turn your creative ideas into a reality. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotional deception will throw you off your game. Don't mix business with pleasure or let what's going on between you and someone you love interfere with your professional responsibilities. A physical activity will do you good. Choose love over discord. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Watch what's going on around you. Don't take anything for granted. The changes others make will affect your reputation if you aren't prepared to defend your position. Don't be afraid to apply pressure if necessary. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Discuss matters of concern with someone you care about and you will come up with a solution to a problem that concerns you. Communication should be geared toward discussing responsibilities and expectations. Take better care of your health. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change will take place if you let down your guard. Observe what everyone else is doing to ensure you aren't being left out. A practical, honest approach to work and getting along with your peers will be necessary. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are pragmatic, dedicated and opinionated. You are assertive and shrewd.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave

	2		9					8
9				1			2	
	7	5		6				
4			3					6
8					2			9
				5		7	4	
	1			8				5
7					9		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5:04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	6	1	4	3	7	8	2	9
7	4	3	2	8	9	6	1	5
2	8	9	5	6	1	7	3	4
9	2	6	7	1	8	4	5	3
8	3	7	9	5	4	2	6	1
4	1	5	3	2	6	9	8	7
6	7	8	1	4	3	5	9	2
1	5	4	8	9	2	3	7	6
3	9	2	6	7	5	1	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5:02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

AFFLATUS IS GREAT! SPREAD THE WORD Solution: 9 letters

M	R	O	T	S	N	I	A	R	B	R	U	S	H	Y
U	O	P	E	N	A	C	Y	C	L	E	K	Y	C	T
S	A	D	M	I	R	I	N	G	N	I	N	S	N	I
E	I	N	S	I	G	H	T	I	L	A	S	P	U	R
C	N	N	O	I	S	I	V	L	H	E	A	O	H	E
N	O	N	W	A	W	I	F	P	N	G	P	E	S	T
E	I	O	K	E	D	L	I	E	A	O	P	T	A	X
G	T	I	F	R	A	P	V	L	W	O	R	I	L	E
I	A	T	O	I	E	I	V	E	H	L	O	C	F	D
L	R	A	R	F	T	A	R	E	I	E	A	S	T	S
L	I	L	C	N	N	F	N	L	M	S	C	T	A	U
E	P	E	E	I	U	F	I	N	A	N	H	U	L	I
T	S	V	Z	L	A	E	D	I	S	U	D	D	E	N
N	N	E	F	A	N	C	Y	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓞ	Ⓖ	Y	N	E
I	I	R	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	G	H	T	G

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Admiring, Affect, Approach, Brainstorm, Counsel, Creative, Cycle, Dexterity, Divine, Epiphany, Fancy, Fire, Flair, Flash, Force, Galvanize, Genius, Goal, Hope, Hunch, Idea, Insight, Inspiration, Intelligence, Inventiveness, Laugh, Muse, Open, Poetic, Powerful, Revelation, Rush, Skill, Study, Sudden, Talent, Vision, Whim, Wisdom

Yesterday's Answer: Drawers

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Thomas scores 53, Celtics beat Wizards 129-119 in OT

AP

Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas celebrates with fans after defeating the Washington Wizards 129-119 in a second-round NBA playoff series basketball game in Boston, Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

BOSTON (AP)—It was his sister's birthday.

She would have been 23.

Isaiah Thomas spent four or five hours in the dentist's chair having work done on the tooth that was knocked out in Game 1, a day after he was in oral surgery for six hours having it repositioned in his mouth. His mouth was swollen, and he could barely talk. Still, he never considered not playing Tuesday night.

"The least I can do is go out there and play for her," Thomas said after scoring 53 points—the second-highest total in Celtics playoff history—to lead Boston to a 129-119 overtime victory over the Washington Wizards.

"I knew once game-time came, my guys would get me going, get me the energy to go out and win a game," Thomas said, ducking his face into his hands as he mentioned his sister, Chyna, who died in a car crash on the eve of the playoffs. "There was no way I was sitting out."

Fiddling with his new mouth guard throughout the game, Thomas scored 20 points in the fourth quarter and nine in overtime to help the Celtics take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals. The 53 points were the most in an NBA playoff game since Allen Iverson scored 55 in 2003, and just one shy of John Havlicek's franchise postseason record of 54.

"It's nice to be in Celtics history with all the great players," Thomas said. "But until you win a championship, you can't consider yourself a great player. That's what it's all about."

John Wall scored 40 points with 13 assists for Washington, which will host Games 3 and 4 on Thursday and Sunday.

"Two teams played their hearts out. Two great players played well," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "

Asked if he had ever been in a one-on-one scoring battle like that against another point guard, Wall shook his head: "Nah," he said. "Nope. Nope. Nope."

Thomas attended his sister's funeral on Saturday and returned to Boston early Sunday morning—just hours before the Celtics won 123-111 and the diminutive point guard lost a tooth. Team doctors jammed it back in, but Thomas spent large parts of the next two days in oral surgery.

"What else is there to say?" Celtics coach Brad Stevens asked. "There was a point today where he was not feeling good at all. He's had a tough day and I thought he was going to really have to gut this one out. Not only guts it out, he ends up with 50. Pretty impressive."

Al Horford scored 15 points with 12 rebounds for Boston, and Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder scored 14 apiece. Marcin Gortat had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Markieff Morris scored 16 for the Wizards, but both fouled out in overtime.

Warriors 106, Jazz 94

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry pulled off a razzle-dazzle spin move right around big Rudy Gobert at the perimeter, went in for a layup and raised his hands, begging the sellout crowd to do its thing.

The Golden State Warriors sure did theirs, using that up-tempo, pass-happy style to run right by the Utah Jazz in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Curry scored 22 points in three quarters of work and the top-seeded Warriors warmed up in a hurry after a weeklong layoff between playoff games, beating the Jazz 106-94 on Tuesday night.

"I'll keep enjoying it. I feel like I have one of the better seats in the house and I'm not even paying for it," fill-in Warriors head coach Mike Brown said when asked about Curry's slick moves.

Draymond Green scored Golden State's first six points of the fourth quarter and wound up with 17 points, eight rebounds, six assists and two more blocks to bring his remarkable five-game playoff swat total to 19.

Kevin Durant added 17 points on an uncharacteristically cold shooting night at 7 for 17 and had five rebounds and five assists. He missed the middle two games against Portland because of a strained left calf then returned for 20 minutes in Game 4. Zaza Pachulia scored 10 points in 14 minutes.

Gobert had 13 points, eight rebounds, two blocks and a Flagrant 1 foul on Green in the fourth for the Jazz, who just finished off the Clippers in a seven-game series Sunday while the Warriors waited after eliminating Portland in a sweep April 24.

"We picked up right where we left off," Curry said. "We weren't clicking making shots early on but our defense really gave us an opportunity to find that flow, and that's what you need in the playoffs."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Thursday night back at Oracle Arena, where it was a night of nostalgia as Golden State honored its 2007 "We Believe" team that ended a 13-year playoff drought and stunned Dallas in the first round.

Green insisted it might take the Warriors a quarter or so to find their rhythm as they finally got to play again. They weren't sharp from 3-point range while going 7 for 29, with Klay Thompson making three of those on the way to 15 points.

The methodical, slow-you-down Jazz team making its first playoff appearance in five years couldn't keep pace in transition.

"If you have those moments where you're not urgent enough, they just punish you for it," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said.

The Warriors outscored the Jazz 29-6 on the break and committed only seven turnovers, matching a franchise playoff-low.

"They're a fast-breaking team and we're basically not," Utah's Joe Johnson said.

Brown guided the Warriors as they are missing reigning NBA Coach of the Year Steve Kerr, who wasn't at the arena as he deals with complications from two back surgeries nearly two years ago. He also missed the last two games of the Portland series.

A three-ring circus: In the NBA, 3-pointers hotter than ever

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Let's be clear: in the NBA, the 2-pointer is not obsolete.

Yet.

Houston's recordsetting barrage of 3-pointers in its win over San Antonio in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series provided the latest reminder of how the long ball's value is continuing to skyrocket. There were more 3-pointers made this season than ever before, the fifth straight year that the NBA saw that record get toppled.

Now meet a new trend: More 3s being taken than 2s in a game. And that one isn't exactly as rare as a unicorn sighting anymore.

"We just take what they give us," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni insisted.

It's not that simple.

Houston took an NBA playoff record 50 3-point attempts on Monday, compared with 37 tries from 2-point range. Before this season, no NBA team ever had that sort of discrepancy—at least 13 more 3s than 2s—in a game, regular-season or playoffs.

That was then.

It's happened 10 times this season, the Rockets posting nine of those. Houston is 7-2 in such games; Boston did it once in a win as well.

"This is the game now," Cleveland's LeBron James said. "It's been this way for a while."

The four teams with the most 3-pointers in the NBA this season—Houston, Cleveland, Boston and Golden State—are all still in these playoffs. And there were more 3s made in the first round than ever before, 846. Back in 2012, in the exact same number of first-round games as what was played this year, teams made a combined 496 3s.

That's a 71 percent increase, in just five years.

There's no end in sight, either. When the Cavs got sharpshooter Kyle Korver earlier this season, James—who was part of the last playoff game in which the winning team made no 3-pointers, during Miami's 2012 title run—gave him this advice: "Shoot the ball every time you get it. Shoot the ball. As soon as it touch your hands, shoot it. We don't care."

Clearly, that's the thinking just about everywhere these days.

"The league is changing," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "Believe me, you've got to change or get stuck in the mud. ... I think the days of the 24-point quarters, the 25-point quarters are kind of sliding away."

In the first 37 seasons of the NBA having a 3-point shot, there were 31 instances of teams taking more from behind that arc in a game than from 2-point range.

The oddity isn't so odd anymore. It's happened 33 times already this season, and counting.

"We won't hesitate on shooting them," said D'Antoni, whose Rockets smashed the NBA records with 1,181 made 3s and 3,306 attempts during the regular season. "We won't miss five in a row and go, 'You know what, we're going to turn one down to drive it.' No. If they're open, they shoot it. If they're not, we drive it."

Sure enough. On Monday, the Rockets scored 126 points, zero coming on field goals from the space between the lane and the 3-point line. They made 40 baskets - 22 were 3-pointers, 13 were dunks or layups, four were shots inside the lane from 6 feet or closer, and the other was a 14-footer from just inside the foul line.

LeBron to pay teammate's $6K fine for Game 1 ejection

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James will save Dahntay Jones some money again.

After Jones was assessed two technical fouls and ejected from Monday's series opener between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Toronto Raptors, James said he planned to pay the automatic $6,000 fine ($2,000 for each technical, $2,000 for the ejection) that accompanied the penalties.

Last year, after Jones was fined for punching Toronto's Bismack Biyombo in the groin and was suspended, James paid for his teammate's misbehavior.

"First of all, I said I was going to pay the fine before I even knew what it was," James said following Cleveland's 116-105 win in Game 1. "It didn't matter. And I told him tonight, I said: 'Listen, Dahntay, now enough is enough. Stop getting kicked out against Toronto all the time. I'm going to stop paying your damn fines.' But yeah, he don't have to worry about it. He's good."

While Jones, a 14-year veteran can probably afford the fine, James, who will make $31 million this season, seemed more than happy to pick up the tab.

Jones signed with Cleveland on the final day of the regular season and is earning only $9,127 in salary—the prorated amount of the minimum contract.

The Cavaliers re-signed Jones because he brings them experience and some needed toughness. Jones dunked with 18.7 seconds left in Game 1 and then was slapped with the technical for taunting Norman Powell, who earlier had delivered a shot to Kevin Love's groin.

Jones appeared to anger Powell and the Raptors with the dunk during the closing minutes since it came with the game out of reach.

Jones applauded, Machado buzzed as Red Sox top Orioles

AP

Boston Red Sox's Sandy Leon, right, can not make the tag allowing Baltimore Orioles' Jonathan Schoop to score on a double by Trey Mancini during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, May 2, 2017, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP) — Moments after Chris Sale joined Fenway Park fans in a show of respect of Adam Jones, the Boston ace escalated the feud with Baltimore star Manny Machado.

Sale stepped off the mound to let a standing ovation build in the first inning Tuesday night as Jones approached the plate, a day after he was racially taunted at the ballpark.

But when Machado came up next, Sale threw a pitch behind his legs. After the Red Sox won 5-2, Machado was irate—and Sale unapologetic.

"I lost my respect for that organization, Boston and how they're handling that whole situation," Machado said in an expletive-filled rant.

"If they're going to hit me, hit me. Go ahead. Get it over with. Don't keep lingering it around and doing that. I've lost mad respect for that team and that organization," he said.

Told about Machado's tirade, Sale shrugged it off.

"Whatever, man. I'm not losing sleep tonight," Sale said.

Jones, meanwhile, acknowledged the reception from the fans and Sale's reaction. Earlier in the day, the Orioles center fielder received a personal apology from Red Sox team president Sam Kennedy on behalf of the club.

On Monday, Jones was targeted with racial slurs, and a bag of peanuts was thrown in his direction.

"Just appreciative that action was taken and not everybody feels the same way as selected people," Jones said. "Sale, who works extremely fast, took his time and let it relish a little bit, so I appreciate the sentiments."

Said Sale, a fellow All-Star: "I wanted to show him the respect he's earned—he deserved. We have a great fan base here. I don't want a few idiots to mess that up."

"Boston fans came together and did the right thing today. Plain and simple. Adam's one of the best players in the game. He's very well respected. He's a good guy. I know him. He's a good person. I don't think anybody deserves to go through anything like that," he said.

But Sale didn't treat Machado so warmly.

Emotions have been elevated since Machado injured Red Sox star Dustin Pedroia on a slide April 21 at Baltimore. Pedroia missed the next three games. Two days after the slide, Red Sox reliever Matt Barnes threw a fastball behind Machado's head and was suspended.

Baltimore's Dylan Bundy hit Mookie Betts near the left hip with a fastball in Monday's series opener, drawing boos.

After Sale threw behind Machado, plate umpire D.J. Reyburn immediately issued a warning to both teams. Orioles manager Buck Showalter came out for a lengthy discussion with Reyburn, Boston manager John Farrell remained in his dugout.

"Typically you don't see it that early, and they're going to determine there's intent immediately," Farrell said. "Obviously, with what's being written about what's transpired in the first six games or so that we've played, D.J. felt like it was an appropriate call."

Sale (2-2) struck out the side in the first, getting Jones and Machado, and fanned 11 in eight innings.

Machado hit a ball completely out of the park for the second straight night, connecting off Sale in the seventh.

Sale wasn't interested in a back-and-forth with Machado.

"That's part of it," Sale said. "I can't speak on what he says. I don't know what he said. I'm not too worried about it, either."

Hanley Ramirez homered twice for Boston. The Red Sox also hit into a bizarre triple play that began when shortstop J.J. Hardy had a popup fall behind him in shallow left field.

Sale gave up three hits. Craig Kimbrel got three straight outs for his AL-leading ninth save in 10 chances.

Betts hit a two-run double.

Alec Asher (1-1) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings.

Astros 8, Rangers 7

In Houston, Marwin Gonzalez hit two home runs, including a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth inning that rallied Houston over Texas.

Gonzalez hit a towering fly off Keone Kela (0-1) for his first career slam and a 7-5 lead. Gonzalez stood near the plate, seeing if the ball would be fair, before tossing his bat toward the dugout and beginning his trot.

Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer in the fourth and Gonzalez hit a solo homer in the fifth.

Delino DeShields, Joey Gallo and Elvis Andrus hit solo homers and Jonathan Lucroy had a two-run shot as the Rangers built a 5-0 lead. Nomar Mazara hit a two-run homer in the ninth off Luke Gregerson.

James Hoyt (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings. Will Harris earned his first save.

Alex Claudio made his first career start. He pitched in place of Cole Hamels, who was scratched after experiencing tightness in his right oblique while warming up.

Dodgers 13, Giants 5

In Los Angeles, Yasiel Puig drove in four runs with two singles and rookie Cody Bellinger added three more with a bases-clearing triple as Los Angeles rallied to beat San Francisco.

The Dodgers managed 11 hits, including a homer by Franklin Gutierrez, and the Giants helped Los Angeles with nine walks.

Despite throwing 82 pitches the first three innings, Alex Wood (2-0) made it through the fifth to earn the victory.

Matt Moore (1-4) took the loss, lasting just 3 1/3 innings. Moore was charged with nine runs and six hits with five walks.

Diamondbacks 6, Nationals 3

In Washington, Jake Lamb and Chris Herrmann homered off Tanner Roark, and Arizona bounced back from an early deficit to beat high-scoring Washington.

Erratic starter Taijuan Walker and four relievers combined to blank the potent Washington offense over the final six innings after the Nationals bolted to a 3-1 lead.

T.J. McFarland (1-0) got four straight outs, J.J. Hoover and Jorge De La Rosa each pitched an inning and Fernando Rodney worked a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

Roark (3-1) struck out eight over six innings for the Nationals.

Cubs 8, Phillies 3

In Chicago, Javier Baez came within a double of the cycle with four hits and three RBIs, Kyle Schwarber broke out of a slump with a three-run homer and Chicago beat Philadelphia.

Baez hit his second homer in two days and tied his career high for hits, and Kris Bryant homered and tripled for the Cubs, who won for the second time in six games.

Jon Lester (1-1) pitched long enough to earn his first victory of the season.

Phillies starter Jeremy Hellickson (4-1) allowed six runs and eight hits in four innings.

White Sox 6, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jose Quintana gave up four singles over eight innings and Chicago beat Kansas City.

Quintana (2-4) walked two, struck out seven and allowed only one runner to reach second base.

The Royals lost for the 10th time in 11 games. Starter Danny Duffy (2-2) allowed six runs, 10 hits and two walks over five innings.

Tigers 5, Indians 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit his 450th homer in his first game off the disabled list and Detroit beat Cleveland.

Corey Kluber (3-2) gave up five runs and seven hits with a walk in three innings. He struck out four before being removed with discomfort in his lower back.

Cabrera missed the minimum of 10 days with a strained right groin. On a cold, damp night, he left the game for a defensive replacement after seven innings.

Justin Verlander (2-2) won for the first time since opening day. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Cardinals 2, Brewers 1

In St. Louis, Carlos Martinez pitched effectively into the eighth inning and St. Louis once again beat Wily Peralta.

Martinez (1-3), making his sixth start of the season, retired the first 12 batters. Trevor Rosenthal pitched a perfect ninth for his third save in three chances.

Peralta (4-2) fell to 0-9 in his last 11 starts against the Cardinals.

Braves 9, Mets 7

In Atlanta, R.A. Dickey's floaters were more effective than Matt Harvey's fastballs for the second time in a week, Ender Inciarte drove in three runs with three hits and Atlanta beat New York.

New York's Jay Bruce drove in six runs with two homers, including a grand slam off Matt Wisler in the ninth.

Dickey (3-2) struggled to control his knuckleball but allowed only three runs and four hits in six innings. He had four walks. He also started in a 7-5 win over Harvey and the Mets in New York on Thursday.

Harvey (2-2) gave up six runs for the second straight start. Harvey allowed eight hits with three walks in 5 1/3 innings.

Jim Johnson struck out Neil Walker for his fifth save.

Pirates 12, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Josh Harrison hit a three-run homer — his third in two games — and right-hander Tyler Glasnow singled home two runs during a six-run rally that helped Pittsburgh to its first victory of the season over Cincinnati.

Glasnow (1-1) steadied himself after a rough first inning, highlighted by Joey Votto's three-run homer, to get his first career win. He also singled up the middle off Scott Feldman (1-3) to put the Pirates ahead to stay in the fourth.

Harrison followed Glasnow's first hit of the season with his third homer in five at-bats for a 7-3 lead. The six-run inning was the biggest allowed by the Reds this season.

Twins 9, Athletics 1

In Minneapolis, Ervin Santana struck out seven in six shutout innings and Brian Dozier hit two of Minnesota's six home runs.

Santana (5-0) lowered his ERA to 0.66 for the season and has allowed one run or fewer and gone at least six innings in all six of his starts. Fernando Valenzuela is the only pitcher to do it more when he went seven straight to start the 1981 season.

Sonny Gray (0-1) made his season debut for the Athletics, giving up four runs on five hits and striking out four in six innings.

Rays 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, Edinson Volquez struck out nine but allowed a career-high eight walks, and Tampa Bay took advantage of his historically uneven performance to beat Miami.

Logan Morrison hit his sixth home run and was one of only five batters to put the ball in play against Volquez (0-4). The Rays managed three runs off the right-hander before he left the game with a thumb blister after 4 1/3 innings.

Volquez became the first starter to walk at least eight batters and strike out at least nine while pitching less than five innings since 1900, the Marlins said, citing information from the Elias Sports Bureau.

Alex Cobb (2-2) pitched six scoreless innings for his first win since the first week of the season. Alex Colome earned his seventh save.

Padres 6, Rockies 2

In San Diego, Yangervis Solarte and Ryan Schimpf hit back-to-back home runs off Tyler Chatwood in the sixth inning and San Diego beat Colorado to spoil Bud Black's return to Petco Park.

Black managed the Padres from 2007 until he was fired on June 15, 2015. The Rockies came in leading the NL West by a half game over Arizona.

Chatwood (2-4) held the Padres hitless through five innings before they jumped on him. Trevor Cahill (2-2), who grew up in Vista in northern San Diego County, won his second straight home game.

Boston sports struggle with perception built on racist past

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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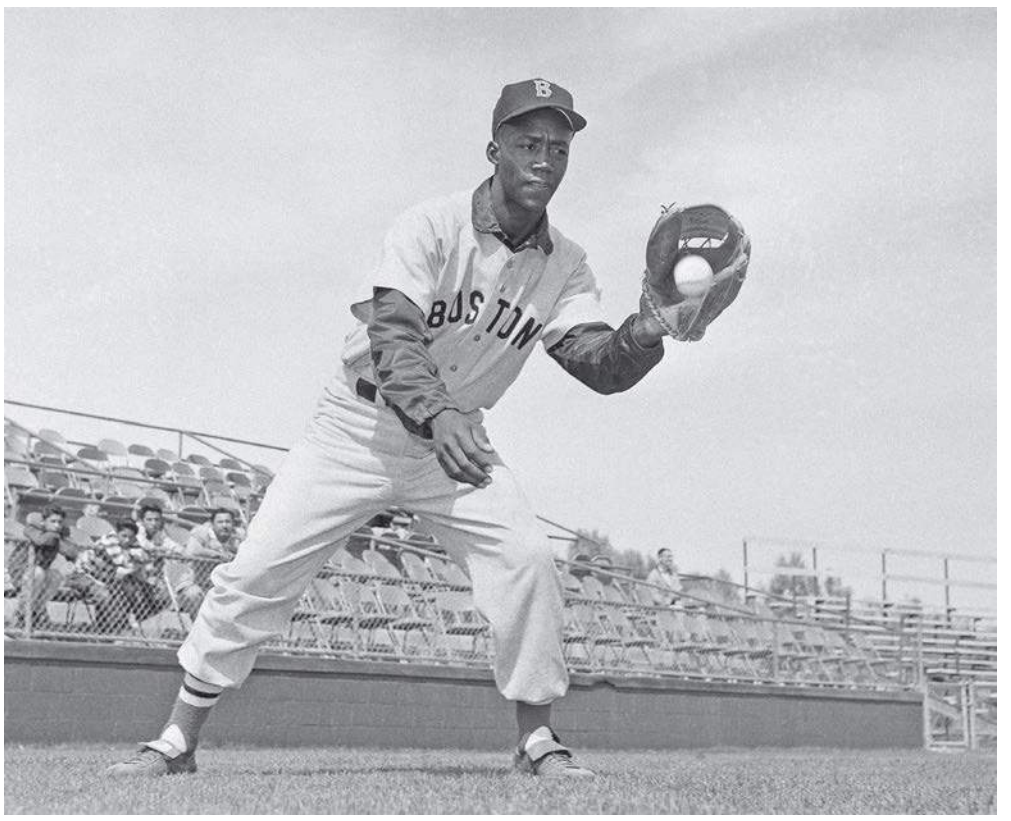
REPORTER



AP
In this April 1959 file photo, Boston Red Sox's Pumpsie Green poses for a photo. The Celtics and the Bruins were pioneers in professional basketball and hockey during the 1950s.

When Red Sox fans hurled peanuts and the N-word toward Orioles outfielder Adam Jones in Fenway Park, it was a reminder of the Boston's racial legacy—particularly around its sports teams.

Boston's reputation as a racist sports town developed through decades of barriers broken and maintained, intertwined with broader struggles for progress along with today's climate of racial tension that sports can't avoid.

Despite its teams and the city making strides on race, Boston still has perceptions of racism to overcome.

"Boston has a reputation, partially left over from a long time ago, that there is more racism within Boston sports," said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. "The type of incident that happened ... is something I would've expected to read about in Boston 25 years ago."

Jones was given an extended ovation on Tuesday night as he stepped to the plate for his first at-bat, a moment sharply different from what he described Monday night, saying he heard fans call him the N-word and had peanuts thrown in his direction in the dugout, hitting a nearby police officer.

The All-Star said he felt "it was just the right time" to speak out after experiencing previous racial heckling at Fenway over 12 seasons, though he said it was more a sign of larger racial issues than an indictment of Boston or its fans. Several black ballplayers Tuesday said Jones was just describing what they regularly experience.

The Celtics and the Bruins were pioneers in professional basketball and hockey during the 1950s. But the Red Sox were the last Major League Baseball team to field a black player. Pumpsie Green debuted at Fenway in 1959 - more than a decade after Jackie Robinson played for the Dodgers, and even after Willie O'Ree took the ice for Boston in the all-white National Hockey League.

The Red Sox ballpark and offices are located on Yawkey Way, named for franchise owner Tom Yawkey who presided over the team at the time. The Red Sox passed on Robinson in 1945 and also passed on a chance to sign future Hall of Famer Willie Mays.

The Celtics were the first team to draft a black player, the first to field an all-black starting five and the first to hire a black head coach. Bill Russell was among the league's first black players and champions, but wasn't embraced by fans during his career and was embittered by his experience in Boston for years, though he is now a beloved figure in the city. In the 1980s, the rivalry between the white Celtics Larry Bird and the African-American Lakers star Magic Johnson epitomized the NBA's racial divide. Earlier this season, Celtics forward Jae Crowder, who is black, said he felt "disrespected" by fans openly coveting white potential free agent Gordon Hawyard, who is white, rekindling the debate.

In 2012, some fans upset with the Washington Capitals bouncing the Boston Bruins from the NHL playoffs lobbed racial insults on Twitter toward Joel Ward, a Canadian who is black. And in an episode of Saturday Night Live before the New England Patriots played in the Super Bowl this year, comedian Michael Che called Boston "the most racist city I've ever been to."

Boston fans pride themselves on rabidly supporting one of America's greatest sports cities. While the Sox-Orioles rivalry shouldn't automatically result in racism, "for some white Americans, that's often where they go if they're angry," said University of Hartford sociologist Woody Doane.

"Pulling a racial epithet out of our back pocket is something a lot of us still do," said Doane, who studies sports, society and whiteness.

Boston's racial history—including fights over segregated housing, schools and politics—has spilled into sports as some working class residents experience a "white crisis," said University of Connecticut sociologist Matthew Hughey.

"They can't live up to the levels of superiority they're told they're supposed to naturally have, so they turn to symbolic things or people to build a sense of identity and to take out a sense of frustration," Hughey said. "Sports can be that sense of identity."

Ballparks can also be an environment where some people feel more comfortable expressing offensive views while others feel uncomfortable or unwelcome.

More black and Latino fans have begun attending games at Fenway, but they remain largely in the minority, said Doane, who has regularly attended Red Sox games since 1963.

"It's a white space," Doane said. "If you are a person of color there, you would definitely feel in the minority."

The situation is not much different for players on the field. Lapchick's 2017 report card on Major League Baseball showed only 7.7 percent of players are African-Americans - the lowest figure in the years since the institute has tracked the data. Black players have long commented on the atmosphere at Fenway, saying they expect racial taunts.

On Tuesday, Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said: "You get called names, N-word, all kinds of stuff when you go to Boston.

"We know," he said. "There's 62 of us and we all know: When you go to Boston, expect it."

Both the city and its sports franchises have changed in recent years. Last season, the Patriots started a black quarterback for the first time. The Red Sox have several African-American players in their starting lineup. And Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas is currently leading his team in the NBA playoffs.

Red Sox President Sam Kennedy said his ownership group made it a mission in 2002 to "acknowledge the shameful past of the Boston Red Sox" and its reputation as an unfriendly environment.

"We've worked really hard to change that. We want to open up Fenway Park to everyone," Kennedy said. "Everyone should feel comfortable at Fenway Park. No matter your race, religion, political beliefs, your sexuality—you are welcomed at Fenway."

KAGMAN

From Page 28

NMI Rollers started building a double-digit lead in the second quarter, 30-19, behind the 7 straight points of McKenzie. It kept its safe distance in the third as Jude Tengco, Jun Alipio, and Angelo Factor hit their marks, while Cobacha closed out for NMI Rollers, drilling three of the team's last four field goals.

Meanwhile, IT&E also eased past the Lady Knights, 55-10, in the women's division game last Thursday.

Tawnie Manibusan led IT&E's rout of the Lady Knights after firing 17 points.

Wednesday Game

Kagman Rollers 31 – Duenas 8, Quitugua 8, Oguamoro 8, Agulto 4, Fitial 2, Palacios 1.

Northside Wolves 25 – De Jose 8, Laxa 7, Calayag 6, Angelo 2, Soriano 2.

Tuesday Game

NMI Rollers 66 – Cobacha 15, Mckenzie 11, Tengco 9, Alipio 8, Factor 5, Fidelino 4, Mendoza 4, Abobo 4, Dancoe 2, Kisa 1.

Ol'Aces Extreme 39 – Manalo 11, Rabano 10, Villagomez 8, Elnas 4, Sablan 4, Ybanez 2.

Thursday Game

IT&E 55 – Manibusan 17, Flores 9, G. Villagomez 10, Reyes 6, Borja 6, Villagomez 3, Travilla 3.

Lady Knights 10 – Buenaventura 4, Borja 2, Alean 2, Toves 2.

TWO

From Page 28

With the standoff, both Paire and Kanoa remain winless this season with the former holding a 0-4-3 record for fourth place in the team standings and the latter at the cellar with its 0-2-6 slate. Kagman is in third place with its 3-1-3 mark.

In the masters division, all three matches were completed with Kanoa battling MP United-1 in the first game, TanHoldings challenging Topnotch in the second, and Matansa squaring off against MP United-2 in the last tiff.

Meanwhile, the two matches in Division A last Sunday were rescheduled. Kanoa was supposed to meet Shirley's in the first game, while Paire was slated to face MP United-TanHoldings in the last match.

Paire leads the division with its 6-1-0 and is likely to take the spring championship as it is ahead by three wins against MP United-Tan Holdings (3-1-1) with two games left in the three round-robin competition. Kanoa is at close third behind MP United-Tan Holdings as the former holds a 3-0-3 record. Shirley's is at the bottom of the team standings with its 0-2-6 card.

BEARS

From Page 28

9ers in the first four innings for a 7-4 advantage and though the latter sliced the deficit two one, 7-8, after a three-run top of the fifth, the former kept the upper hand after shutting down their foes in the last three innings.

A.J. Lizama pitched for the Bears in the final three innings and with him working the mound, the D-9ers were called for back-to-back 1-2-3 in the seventh and eighth. Then at the top of the ninth, Lizama got the two quick outs, as he picked up a short shot from Jun Acosta and threw to first baseman Angel Palacios for the first out. The Bears closer next fanned out Jess Sablan, leaving Robert Tudela stranded at first. Tudela remained there and the Bears wrapped up the match after a 6-3 putout play on Isaiah Lizama.

In other results this week, the BSI Aces closed out strong to eliminate the Comets and secure a playoff spot. The BSI Aces scored six of their eight runs in the last four innings and shut down the Comets in the final two to get win No. 10.

Manny Cabrera took over the mound from John Tudela in the last two innings and struck out three Comets batters while allowing only one hit. Cabrera forced the Comets to a 1-2-3 inning in the eighth and stranded two runners in the ninth.

Meanwhile, Titanium remained in playoff contention after outclassing the Blue Jays last Friday, 11-3.

Brian Camacho was only 1-for-3 at the plate for Titanium, but scored three runs to help the team's cause. Jhace Palacios and Pat Tenorio contributed two runs apiece and the latter made one of Titanium's four RBIs.

Titanium set up the victory after giving up no runs to the Blue Jays in the first five innings.

Nathan Camacho was the starting pitcher for Titanium and allowed only four hits in the first five frames. His brother Brian relieved him at the top of the ninth and the older Camacho finished the job early after striking out leadoff batter J.J. Chong and third batter Ben Flores. Rightfielder Jonah Delos Reyes caught a fly ball from Virgil Secharmidal for the second out.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	16	9	.640	—
New York	16	9	.640	—
Boston	14	12	.538	2½
Tampa Bay	14	14	.500	3½
Toronto	9	18	.333	8

Central Division

Chicago	14	11	.560	—
Minnesota	13	11	.542	½
Cleveland	14	12	.538	½
Detroit	14	12	.538	½
Kansas City	8	17	.320	6

West Division

Houston	18	9	.667	—
Los Angeles	15	13	.536	3½
Oakland	11	15	.423	6½
Seattle	11	16	.407	7
Texas	11	16	.407	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	17	9	.654	—
Philadelphia	12	13	.480	4½
Miami	11	14	.440	5½
Atlanta	11	14	.440	5½
New York	11	15	.423	6

Central Division

Chicago	14	12	.538	—
Milwaukee	14	14	.500	1
St. Louis	13	13	.500	1
Cincinnati	12	14	.462	2
Pittsburgh	12	14	.462	2

West Division

Arizona	17	11	.607	—
Colorado	16	11	.593	½
Los Angeles	15	13	.536	2
San Diego	12	16	.429	5
San Francisco	10	18	.357	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

24th NTT-ASTC Subic Bay International Triathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis poses for a photo before the start of the swim leg of the 24th NTT-ASTC Subic Bay International Triathlon held over the weekend at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales, Philippines.

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis walks his bike to the bike-run transition area.

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis is about to complete the sprint course.

Florence Antonio, left, and Paul Plunkett pose for a photo while waiting for the start of the swim leg.

Florence Antonio heads back to the beach for the second lap of the 1.5-kilometer swim leg.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI official Ricky Castro, right, joins Florence Antonio, left, and Paul Plunkett for a group photo before the start of the race. TRAC helped send Antonio, Plunkett, and Villacrusis to the Subic Bay triathlon.

Paul Plunkett poses with his first place medal in the 55 to 59 age group.

Florence Antonio bites his third place medal.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Two in a row for MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club won two of its three make-up games in Division B of the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League last week.

MP United first dueled Shirley's FC last April 26 at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field and pulled off a 1-0 victory. Then last Sunday, MP United shut down Kagman High School, 3-0, at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field. MP United and Kagman collided twice last weekend with their first encounter ending in a scoreless draw.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club, left and Kagman High School players nudge each other as they vie for possession during the first half of their Division B game in the 2017 Dove Women's Spring League last Sunday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

Julia Ishikawa scored the lone goal for MP United in their close win against Shirley's. She hit the board in the 50th minute to break MP United's long silence and snap Shirley's six-game winning streak.

Versus Kagman, Maaya Sato recorded the pair of goals for MP United, while Malika Miyawaki added one. Sato made her first goal in the 15th minute and the second in the 38th or a minute after Miyawaki found the back of the net and gave MP United a 2-0 advantage.

With its back-to-back victories, MP United improved to a 4-3-1 win-draw-loss record and moved up to second place in the team standings in Division B behind Shirley's (6-0-1).

In other results in Division B, Paire and Kanoa had a scoreless draw.

See TWO on Page 26

Bears boost playoffs bid; Aces advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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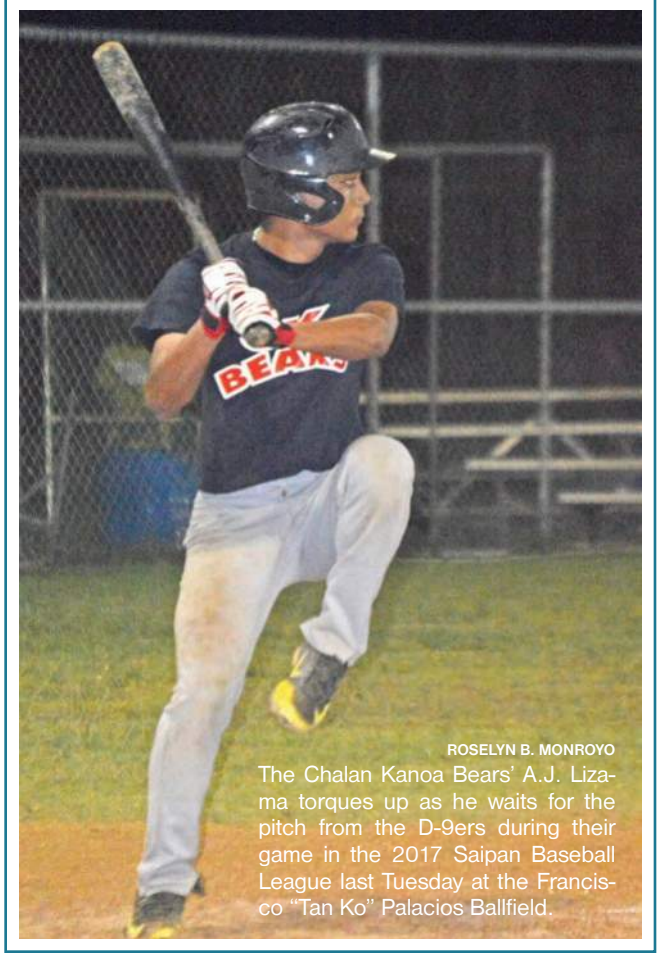
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears' chances to move into the playoff round of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League increased following their 10-8 victory over the Saipan Stevedore D-9ers last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win gave the defending champions a 6-6 record for third place in the team standings, while the loss dropped the D-9ers to No. 6 with their 4-6 slate. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and the second Final Four seat has been taken by the BSI Aces, who improved to a second-best 10-2 slate after downing the Comets last Monday, 8-5. Go See Mark notched the first playoff berth as it remains unbeaten in 12 games, while the Falcons (5-5), Bears, D-9ers, and Titanium (5-7) are left to battle for the last two semis tickets. The Comets (3-9) and Blue Jays (1-11) are out of contention.

The Bears outhit the D-

See BEARS on Page 26


ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Chalan Kanoa Bears' A.J. Lizama torques up as he waits for the pitch from the D-9ers during their game in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kagman Rollers tames Wolves

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman Rollers earned its second win in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after downing the Northside Wolves, 31-25, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kagman Rollers outgunned the Wolves, 11-5, in the last four minutes of the match to take its second straight victory after dropping its debut.

Yesterday's match was tied for the last time, 20-all, before Kagman Rollers went on a short 6-0 run to gain cushion, going into the final two minutes of the game. Patrick Duenas scored 4 of those 6 points, while Joey Cruz tallied the other 2.

A corner triple from Louie Calayag moved the Wolves within 3 points, 23-26, but that was the closest that the former could get as they turned the ball over a couple of times and missed some point-blank shots.

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Kagman Rollers' Jeremy Agulto, third left, is blocked by the Northside Wolves' Darryl Soriano, right, and Royce Angelo, left, during the second half of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kagman Rollers, on the other hand, drew another field goal from Duenas after a split from Ogumoro, while Jeremy Agulto made the last basket in the match to offset the layup shot from the Wolves' Rex De Jose.

Duenas, Ogumoro, and Jelbert Quitugua top-scored for Kagman Rollers with 8 points apiece, while De Jose also had 8 markers to pace the Wolves.

In other boys U18 division results, NMI Rollers walloped the Ol'Acex Extreme last Tuesday, 66-39.

Emmanuel Cobacha and Marcel McKenzie finished in twin digits for NMI Rollers with the former recording 15 points and the latter chipping in 11. Three more NMI Rollers players combined for 22 markers to whip the Ol'Aces Extreme.

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